United Nations A/65/384

General Assembly

Distr.: General
21 September 2010
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-fifth session
Agenda item 115
Follow-up to the outcome of the Millennium Summit

Letter dated 15 September 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to refer to the note verbale of 14 September 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Cuba to the United Nations, transmitting the third national report of Cuba on its progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals (see annex).

This publication provides an up-to-date and objective picture of Cuba's progress in achieving the Millennium Development Goals, drawing on reliable information that has been consolidated and verified by the National Statistical Office of Cuba, and further substantiated by data furnished by all the Cuban ministries and institutions that have systematically conducted studies and monitored progress in this regard. The report concludes that Cuba has fully achieved many of the Millennium Development Goal targets before the deadline, and that it is working hard both to reach the other targets and to improve earlier its target indicators by 2015.

I should be grateful if you would have the present report circulated as an official document of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly under agenda item 115.

(*Signed*) Pedro **Nuñez Mosquera**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations

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Annex

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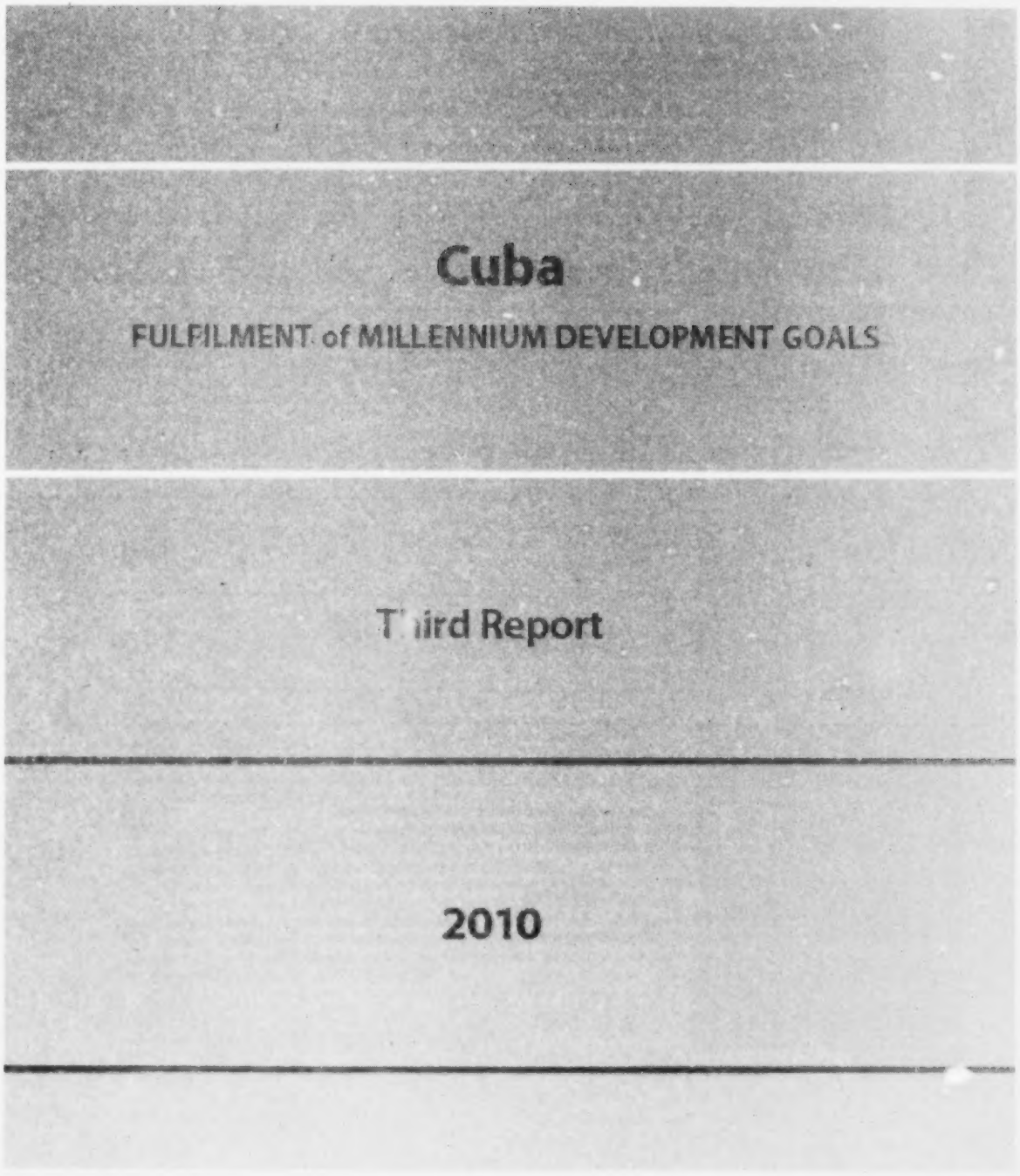

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I. INTRODUCTION

This is the third opportunity on which the Republic of Cuba presents a Report about the state of fulfilment at national level of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG), established by Heads of State and Government at the Millennium Summit of 2000, as part of the international efforts to integrate the goals and commitments signed at the international summits and conferences. In its actions in favour of the MDGs, Cuba has also taken part in the Project to Strengthen Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals at a local level, along with the Office of the Resident United Nations Coordinator in Cuba, which allowed for the assessment of these goals, especially in the country's eastern provinces.

The publication being presented here today provides a current and objective view of the country's situation in terms of fulfilment of the MDGs, using reliable, consolidated information that has been approved by the National Statistics Office and supported, furthermore, by data provided by all the Cuban ministries and institutions that have systematically carried out studies and monitoring.

On the basis of the collected information and the rates demonstrated, it is concluded that Cuba has fulfilled, prior to the set date, a large part of the established goals for the MDGs, in spite of the consequences coming from the application of the policy of economic, trade and financial blockade imposed by the United States of America, constituting the principal obstacle for better development of the country and for the improved living standards of its population. The country is working energetically to arrive at 2015 with the remaining goals fulfilled, and with the indicators already fulfilled several years ago much improved.

The results attained by Cuba not only show the determination of the Cuban government to continue encouraging the achievement of better standards of living and well-being for its population, in particular in areas such as the fight against poverty and hunger, the reversion of environmental deterioration, improvement of education and health, promotion of gender equality and international cooperation, but also the political will to channel the limited resources at the country's disposal towards those areas having the greatest economic and social impact.

The triumph of the Cuban Revolution permitted economic and social policies to be established that favoured coordinated and consistent work at the national level to look after the principal needs and priorities of the country. The indicators of this Report demonstrate the results of these policies, ratifying their suitability and relevance. Even though we are wholesomely proud of these results, Cuba will continue to work to improve its indicators in the fulfilment of the MDGs, aware of the fact that this implies an improvement of the standards and quality of life of its population.

Cuba is grateful for the support of the United Nations System, bilateral donors and NGOs which, through international cooperation, join their efforts with those of the Cuban government and people in order to fulfil the Millennium Development Goals.

A National Group was created for drawing up this Report led by the Ministry of Foreign Trade and Investment and with the technical coordination of the National Institute for Economic Research. Representatives from the Central State Administration, the academic community and the social organizations collaborated in the preparation of this Report. Outstanding among these are the Ministries of Health, Education, Labour and Social Security, Foreign Affairs, Economy and Planning, Information Technologies and Communications, Science, Technology and the Environment; as well as the National Water Resources Institute and the National Housing Institute. Other fundamental actors were the Cuban Women's Federation and the National Statistics Office (ONS).

FULFILMENT OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS - CUBA 2010

II. DEVELOPMENT CONTEXT

The economy of Cuba concluded the first seven years of the twenty-first century with favourable economic results, with reports of an annual average increase in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of 6.3 percent during 2000-2007 and a rhythm of more than 8.0 percent during 2002-2007. In the next two years, predictably, growth slowed to 4.1 percent in 2008 and to 1.4 percent in 2009, due to the negative effects of the world crises which had repercussions in drops in external incomes from exports; added to this were the difficulties in obtaining loans. Also during these years, we had to confront the impact of extreme climatic events whose greater frequency and intensity is associated with the consequences of the climate change. Only in the year 2008, the affectation due to the hurricanes were estimated at 9, 720 millions USD.

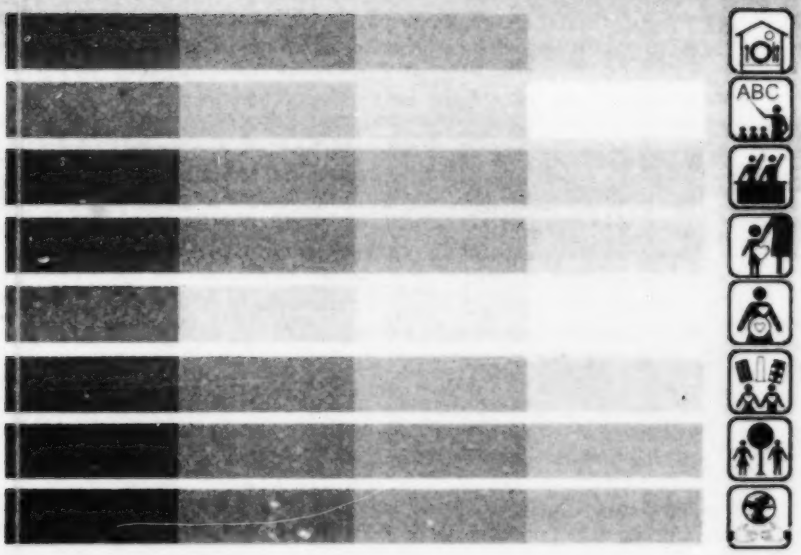
The world crises were transmitted to the economy in several ways: the slump in nickel prices, decreased demand for that product and other goods and services important to Cuban international trade such as tourism, cigars and lobster, just to name a few. Other channels of transmission were the international shrinkage of credit and investment, difficulties in the levels of remittances and exchange rate variations, factors whose impacts were intensified in the measure that the crisis was growing in magnitude and extent.

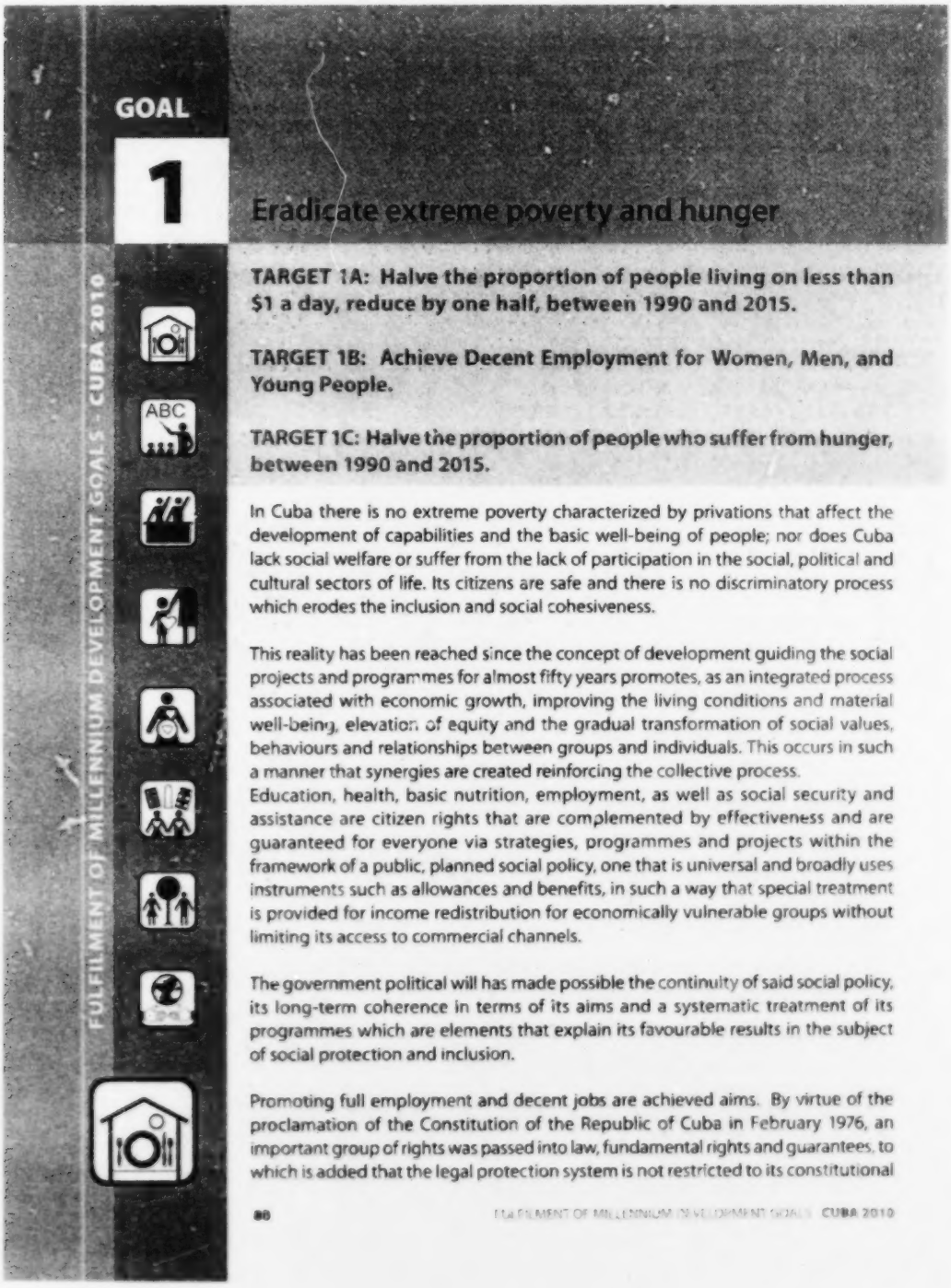
Along with all of the above, the economic, trade and financial blockade being applied by the government of the United States against Cuba remains intact, in its unilateral and extra-territorial nature; it has been toughening in recent years with the creation of agencies specialized in hunting down Cuba's trade, financial and technological operations abroad, applying pressure to banks in third countries and severe sanctions to prevent ties with Cuba, with the setting up of obstacles for travel between the two nations and limiting the allowed amounts for remittances being sent by relatives to Cuba and the expenses of whoever could travel to the island. By the end of 2009, economic damages to the country deriving from these measures were estimated at 100 billion USD from the time they were imposed, in nominal value every year. In spite of the almost unanimous call of the UN General Assembly for this policy to be dismantled (187 countries voted for its immediate and unconditional elimination), and the refuting of several international forums as the Rio Group, NAM, and the increasing majority sectors in American society, the US government continues imposing an obsolete and inhumane policy with the upmost severity.

Currently Cuban society is immersed in implementing important structural transformations and updating its economic model. The work has been directed towards:

1. Promoting the generation of revenues by means of goods and services exports.
2. Redesigning the agricultural management model in order to make agricultural production more dynamic, especially in its potential to replace imports.
3. Restructuring employment and the salary system with a view to promoting labour productivity.
4. Elevating economic efficiency in health and education services without adversely affecting quality.
5. Improving institutionalism in terms of putting in place a much more effective structure for State bodies.
6. Strengthening the role of planning as an expression of the more general interests of society and as an instrument of coordination for business, territorial and national interests. Along these lines we are moving forward to introduce changes to the organizational structure, the methods, procedures and scope of planning, with the intention of achieving an economic space that is suitably regulated and allowing for more autonomous and efficient business management, promoting municipal economic management initiatives, permitting greater integration between mid and short-term purposes, as well as more effective participation in the decision making process.

II. THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS:
The state of fulfilment




GOAL
1
Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
TARGET 1A: Halve the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day, reduce by one half, between 1990 and 2015.
TARGET 1B: Achieve Decent Employment for Women, Men, and Young People.
TARGET 1C: Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger, between 1990 and 2015.
In Cuba there is no extreme poverty characterized by privations that affect the development of capabilities and the basic well-being of people; nor does Cuba lack social welfare or suffer from the lack of participation in the social, political and cultural sectors of life. Its citizens are safe and there is no discriminatory process which erodes the inclusion and social cohesiveness.
This reality has been reached since the concept of development guiding the social projects and programmes for almost fifty years promotes, as an integrated process associated with economic growth, improving the living conditions and material well-being, elevation of equity and the gradual transformation of social values, behaviours and relationships between groups and individuals. This occurs in such a manner that synergies are created reinforcing the collective process.
Education, health, basic nutrition, employment, as well as social security and assistance are citizen rights that are complemented by effectiveness and are guaranteed for everyone via strategies, programmes and projects within the framework of a public, planned social policy, one that is universal and broadly uses instruments such as allowances and benefits, in such a way that special treatment is provided for income redistribution for economically vulnerable groups without limiting its access to commercial channels.
The government political will has made possible the continuity of said social policy, its long-term coherence in terms of its aims and a systematic treatment of its programmes which are elements that explain its favourable results in the subject of social protection and inclusion.
Promoting full employment and decent jobs are achieved aims. By virtue of the proclamation of the Constitution of the Republic of Cuba in February 1976, an important group of rights was passed into law, fundamental rights and guarantees, to which is added that the legal protection system is not restricted to its constitutional
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FULFILMENT OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS · CUBA 2010

formulation but it is duly developed and guaranteed in other substantive norms and processes in force and they constitute a real practice. Especially relevant is Law No. 49 of December 28, 1984 which enacted the Labour Code that collects the fundamental principles of labour law, as follows:

(a) a work is a right, a duty and a reason for honour for every citizen;
(b) every citizen who is able to work, without any differences in race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion or national or social origin has the opportunity to obtain a job by which they can make social contributions and satisfy their needs;
(c) jobs are available according to the demands of the economy and society, at the choice of the workers, their aptitudes and qualifications;
(d) people have access to positions and jobs according to their merits and capabilities, and they receive equal pay for equal work;
(e) work is paid according to its quality and quantity;
(f) all workers, according to legislation in force, have the right to join associations and unions of their own free will;
(g) all workers have the right to participate in the management of production and services;
(h) all workers have the right to effectively enjoy daily and weekly rest periods, as well as annual paid vacations;
(i) all workers have the right to protection, safety and hygiene at the worksite, via regular improvement of the working conditions and, in particular, the adoption of suitable measures for the prevention of professional accidents and illnesses;
(j) all workers have the right to education with the specific facilities that the law regulates; through adult education plans, technical and professional education, technical and labour training at the work entities and higher education courses for workers;
(k) all workers who are unable to work because of age, incapacitation, illness or work-related accidents are suitably protected through service loans, in kind and cash by the social security system, and in the event of the death of a worker their families receive this protection according to what the law establishes.

The official millennium indicators confirm the favourable results reached in the labour sphere.

Table 1. Employment Indicators

Rate of GDP growth per employee (percent)	...	...	7,3	9,7	22,8	8,5	5,3
Employment-Population Relation	71,1	62,6	65,1	70,3	70,7	73,4	73,6
Proportion of the employed population that is self-employed or employed in a family-run business	...	3,8	3,5	3,6	3,2	2,8	2,8

Source: National Statistics Office

In 1990-1995, a phase marked by the economic crisis derived from the loss of Cuba's main trading partners, there was a 34.8% drop in the PIB between 1989 and 1993, the abrupt dip of 78% in importing capacity and the brutal toughening of the economic, trade and financial blockade with the adoption of the Torricelli and Helms-Burton Acts, in 1992 and 1996 respectively, aspects that significantly aggravated the internal financial imbalance with consequences in terms of lack of motivation to remain in formal jobs and the decrease of efficiency, until in 1995 an unemployment rate of 8.3% was recorded.

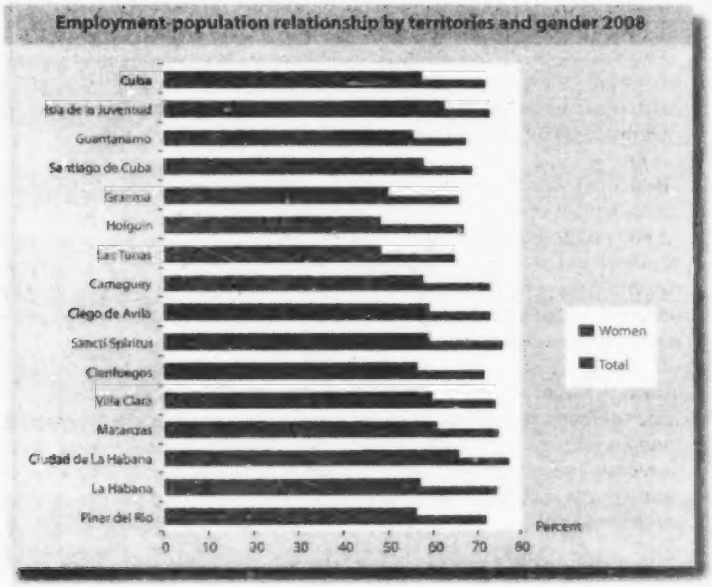
Even in such difficult conditions, the inalterable condition of not having any worker unassisted was maintained, as was not leaving any pensioner or person on welfare without their monthly cheque. In those circumstances, the Cuban government prioritized social spending, fundamentally social security and assistance in order to cover the population's basic needs.

Starting with the economic recovery beginning during the second half of the nineties, the employment policy was directed towards: decreased unemployment, increased labour motivation and contributions towards achieving greater efficiency through the application of territorial programmes; redistribution of the surplus labour force; protection of workers' and vulnerable group incomes; guaranteed jobs for higher education graduates; prioritization for job creation for youth, women, the handicapped and professional-technical school graduates; as well as the broadening of self-employment activities and the cooperative sector.

In 2001, we surpassed the occupation level of 1990. The State continued to generate thousands of new jobs in productive sectors and in the vital services such as education, health, culture, tourism, construction, the metal-machinery and agriculture industries and others.

In 2004, a new strategy was proposed for the consolidation of jobs, and the priorities of the employment policy deal with graduates of the different schools, those discharged from active military service, handicapped people willing to work and having the mental and physical qualities needed to do so, keeping prioritized attention on incorporating the young and women into the workforce. The rate of economic activity reaches 74.7% in 2008, the greatest figure reported in this century.

Cuba reached significant results in 2003 according to the concepts and indicators of international bodies, registering an unemployment rate of 2.3%. That has been maintained during the entire period, with an unemployment rate of 1.6% reported in 2008; this places Cuba among the countries with the lowest level of unemployment in the world.



Source: National Statistics Office

To the abovementioned, we can add the contributions of:

- The development and extension of social programmes that constitute new sources of useful employment, such as the social workers, computer teachers, arts instructors and health technicians.
- The development of urban agriculture
- The development of programmes of specific employment in locations, municipalities and provinces with the highest unemployment rates.

The course of labour is taken in the 169 municipal Labour Offices in the country; these receive the workforce requirements from work entities and along with the labour representatives existing in the demarcations of the Peoples' Councils they publicize the jobs available to the persons seeking work. Jobs are matched with those offering their labour, ensuring the requests of the entities. Likewise, preferential treatment is given to those individuals having personal or family conditions that indicate economic vulnerability such as old age, illness or handicaps.

Youth employment is a special priority. The unemployment rate for youth between 15 and 24 years of age was only 3.6% in 2008, 4.0% for women and 3.3% for men. The application of the concept to promote study and training, whenever necessary, allowed many young people who were falling through the cracks of school and work to stop being unemployed and increase their preparation for work positions or to continue their schooling at a higher level.

The active economic participation of women in society constitutes an essential component in employment policy. The rate of working women has grown from 53.3% in 2000 to 60.2% in 2008. Cuba implements a National Action Plan as part of the follow-up to the agreements of the Fourth World Women's Conference (Beijing, 1995), which is translated into concrete measures and activities and the political will to improve the incorporation of women on the job front, in school and in society-oriented tasks.

In regards to persons with disabilities, thousands of these have been incorporated into the workforce through a directed employment programme, the creation of special workshops and the adaptation of positions that facilitate their incorporation. That occurs via the Employment Programme for the Disabled (PROEMDIS) that identifies the individual possibilities of the people looking for work and then guarantees jobs.

The above-mentioned measures to promote decent jobs are complemented by others directed towards improving the productivity that permits the raising of salary levels. During the five-year period of 2000-2005, average monthly salaries grew 38.6%. The economic progress obtained and the increase of employees' productivity made it possible that in May of 2005 the minimum salary increased by 125%. Later, and gradually, salary increases were put in place for more than 53% of workers, reaching in the year 2008, a monthly salary average of 74,4%higher than the one in the year 2000 in State and mixed entities.

Nevertheless, promoting the growth and efficiency of workers in the difficult international economic conditions remains as one of the aims being worked on by current economic policy.

If indeed employment is the main guarantee for the social security being enjoyed by Cubans with no differences, the protection offered by social security and assistance is important, especially to counteract extreme poverty and hunger. Conceived of as a comprehensive and harmonious system, social security includes security of job position, of income, of work conditions, of formation and training, as well as of prioritized and differentiated attention to maternity leaves, for persons with disabilities, for seniors, for the victims of natural disasters and for everyone who needs it; this has allowed us to guarantee a life of dignity for all our citizens.

Social security in Cuba is not limited to the granting of pensions and loans, but it is undergoing profound changes regarding the improvement of social work and the struggle to attain full justice. The State guarantees material, financial and human resources for Social Security and every year the National Assembly (ANPP) approves the corresponding budget. The State sets aside more than 11% of its GDP just for the functioning of the social security system, without including expenses for health, education, attention to victims of climatic disasters, among other contingencies.

On December 27, 2008, the People's Power National Assembly approved Social Security Law No. 105 which entered into force on January 22, 2009; later, in the month of April, its Regulations were approved. Both juridical norms broaden the scope of protection that is offered by the social security system.

Social Security is directly administered by the State. The heart of the administrative organization and the management of Security is currently constituted by the National Social Security institute (INASS), a specialized entity, attached to the Ministry of Labour and Social Security whose mission is to guarantee adequate and efficacious service to the population benefiting from social security and correct planning, administration and control of the financial, human and material resources destined for that purpose. The National Social Security Institute has a central headquarters and is represented in all of the country's provinces and municipalities.

The Social Security System is funded by State contributions and the contributions of labour and worker entities, in the terms and amounts regulated by tax legislation. At the present time, the taxation system in force is being reviewed as a whole, within the framework of the updating of the economic model that has been announced by the government; and the challenge being presented by the accelerated aging process of the population along with foreseen institutional changes will be elements taken into consideration in the legislation that will be approved.

In Cuba, 100% of the population enjoys social protection since the social security system covers all workers, their families and the population in general. The general schedule of social security offers protection to workers in the event of illness and accidents that are either normal or work-related, maternity leaves, infirmity and old age and in the case of death, it protects their families.

The Social Assistance plan protects any person who is not capable for working and who lacks relatives that can assist them.

The special schedules protect persons carrying out activities that, because of their nature or because of the type of productive process or service, require adapting

the benefits of social security to their conditions. These schedules are regulated via specific legislation for the military personnel of the Revolutionary Armed Forces; combatants of the Ministry of the Interior; creators of visual and applied, musical, literary and audiovisual arts and workers in the arts; members of the Agricultural Production Cooperatives; those working the soil in usufruct; self-employed workers, along with any others who require it.

Assistance social services (protection) answer to programmes and actions directed towards seniors, persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses, pregnant women, children, those discharged from prisons and other population groups. These services are organized by territories, according to the complexity and specificity of the problems they deal with.

From 2005, pensions for the beneficiaries of the Social Security System were increased progressively. In 2008, the National Social Security Institute there was an increase in the pensions and it took in all the retired people on social security receiving benefits of up to 1.7 times the minimal salary. The minimum pension was increased to 88% of the minimum salary and the family nuclei on social assistance received a raise equivalent to 17% of the minimum salary.

The legislation in force for maternity benefits is one of the most advanced in the world. Decree Law No 234 on Workers' Maternity broadened the rights of women workers and protection for maternity, ensuring medical care during the pregnancy, the pre and post-partum leave, breast-feeding and the care of minor children, as well as differentiated treatment in the case of disability of the children and it recognizes the shared responsibility of mother and father in the care of the children and that of the father in the case that the mother should die.

As for comprehensive care of causes that may generate disabilities, protection is guaranteed to persons affected and possibilities are given for the development of their potential in matters of health, education, jobs and full social integration. Since 1995, the National Action Plan for the Care of the Disabled which functions from the municipal to the national levels and has brought together the efforts of state bodies, the Associations for the Disabled and other social and grass-roots organizations, thus guaranteeing close coordination in matters dealing with employment, accessibility, health, education, training and the use of information and communications technologies.

Protection for disabled workers who are unable to continue working because of illness, maternity, partial or total infirmity and age is also guaranteed. In the event of death, this protection passes on to the relatives.

The disabled have created associations with the aim of making their participation in the design and application of policies and programmes in the country more effective, to channel their initiatives and concerns and to better take part in

solutions to their needs to strengthe ir ties with organizations of disabled persons in other countries and to look other matters of interest. Among the main non-governmental organizations fo e disabled, the most outstanding are: the National Association for the Blind (ANCI), the Cuban Association for Persons with Physical and Motor Skills Limitations (ACLIFIM) and the Cuban National Association for the Deaf (ANSOC).

The gradual elimination of architectural barriers has been yet another aim presented in the promotion and protection programmes for the rights for the disabled. For this purpose the Cuban Norm 53-199:90 was drawn up. All construction projects are reviewed by state inspectors along with inspectors from the Associations for the Disabled. Integrating programmes are applied in community areas in order to get rid of barriers; but this is an aspect that still needs to advance to a greater extent.

An essential element contributing to the non-existence of extreme poverty and hunger in the country is the promotional work for food security and protection for access to food provided by the subsidized provision of a minimal family shopping basket for every household.

In 2008, the availability of food for human consumption globally surpassed recommended nutritional guidelines in the Cuban population (except for fats); a weakness to the availability of foods lay in the high component of imported foods.

The official millennium indicator shows the results of the high level of protection enjoyed by the population in the subject of foods.

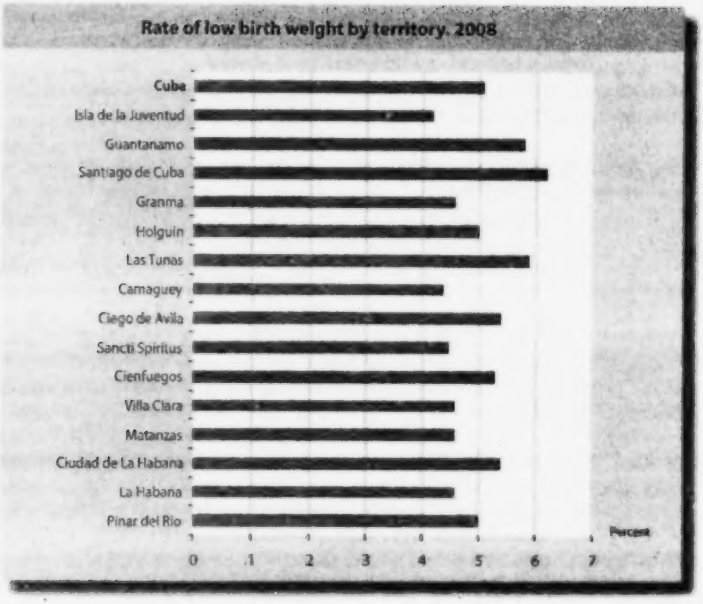
Table 2. Nutrition indicators

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Proportion of underweight children under 5 years old (percent)	...	...	9,0	9,0	4,0	4,0	4,0

Source: System for Surveillance of Food and Nutrition via sentinel sites, INHA. (Institute of Nutrition and Food Hygiene.)

The percentage of moderately and severely underweight children under 5 in terms of their age was only 4.0% in 2008, and a drop can be seen of almost 56% in that proportion in 2000 - first available statistic - ; this indicates that insufficient weight is not a health problem in the country.

Another element reaffirming that insufficient weight is not a health problem and that food protection reaches the low-income households is the rate of low birth weight (less than 2, 500 g. at birth), which in 1990 reached 7.6% and has gradually decreased to 5.1% in 2008; its territorial conduct bears witness to the extension and equity of that result. Cuba is among the countries with the lowest rate for low birth weight according to the State of the World's Children.



Source: National Statistics Office.

Also, the surveillance system via its sentinel sites reported in 2006 that the percentage of children under 5 with retarded growth (height/age) was 5%; this is low (INHA, 2006); while the surveillance system for iodized salt found that in 2007 87.3% of households were effectively consuming iodized salt (INHA, 2009); a surveillance system is maintained to control the effectiveness and sustainability of this programme.

Goal 1. State of compliance and 2015 forecast

Conclusion

The First Millennium Goal has been attended to with integrated strategies and policies and prioritized even during the stages of very severe economic difficulties such as the ones besetting the country.

Locating the aims of equity as the central axis for public policies, promoting the effectiveness of broad education and health programmes, along with those programmes that guarantee access to basic nutrition, formal jobs and minimal, stable allowances and social assistance for all, have been the pillars that explain why there are no manifestations of extreme poverty, hunger and exclusion as expressed in the world.

The consequences of the world crises, the damage caused by the unilateral and extraterritorial blockade the US has imposed on Cuba and the transformations of the management economic model that are being studied and implemented in the country in order to make the economy more dynamic and to increase its efficiency in the current context, are being made concrete in institutional changes, restructuring state employment, variations in the taxation and planning systems, as well as reviews of the social benefits.

At the same time, we are designing new spaces to move forward towards a greater decentralization of economic activity that raises initiative right from the communities; and measures will be applied that will make financial and business management mechanisms more flexible along with others that promote exports and the replacement of imports at all scales.

Those aspects will have an impact on households, their current income sources and the magnitude of the non-cash benefits that they obtain from the social policies in force. In return, it requires speed in adapting to changes and making the most of their potential, especially human potential, which are relatively very high in all income groups.

Adjustments to the social and protection policies are being studied so that assistance benefits and special access channels may reach those most vulnerable households as priorities.

The current favourable situation in terms of extreme poverty and hunger, the progress made in employment, security and social assistance in complying with the First Millennium Goal and the considerations indicated about the strategies and policies that will foreseeable be applied, allow to assess as PROBABLE the compliance with this Goal in 2015.

GOAL

2

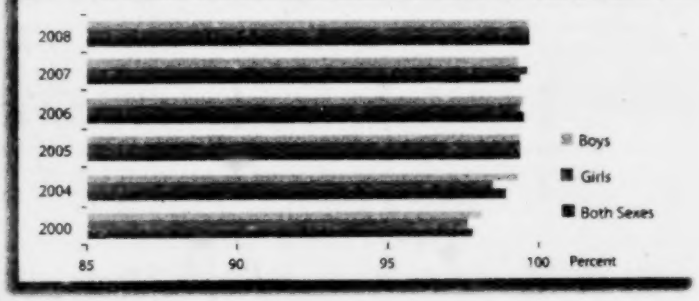
Achieve universal primary education

TARGET 2A: By 2015, all children can complete a full course of primary schooling, girls and boys

The universality of primary education is a reality in Cuba as shown by the millennium indicators (table 3).

From the 1990s, enrolment at this level of education represents approximately 100% of the population of ages established for this level, 6 to 11 years old. One can see in the chart below, that the net enrolment rate at the primary level is very high both for boys and girls.

Net enrolment rate at primary level 2008. Total and by Gender



Sources: National Statistics Office.

Corresponding to primary education, 99.7% of the population in the age group -6 to 11 years of age- is enrolled in primary schools and special education schools, with a similar indicator for girls and boys. The proportion reached is the highest in the decade and reveals a growing trend during the period, both for total figures and for gender figures. This high net enrolment rate is the result of an almost 100% student retention rate, and repeating continues its downward swing, only 0.4% in 2008, and for this reason retention during the complete formation cycle in primary education is remaining at levels higher than 99%.

The conduct of the net enrolment rate in primary school during the 2005-06 to 2008-09 academic years shows proportions above 99% in all the territories and at

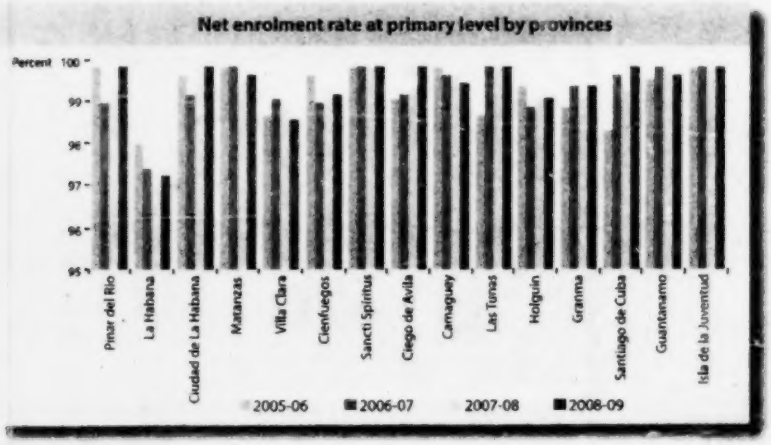
levels very close to national averages, with the exception of La Habana province where it is staying at around 97%, with the migratory movements of the population being the fundamental reason, with incidence in the age groups corresponding to this indicator.

Table 3. Education indicators

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Net rate of enrolment in primary education (percent)	98,6	97,8	97,8	99,4	99,5	99,4	99,7
Proportion of students starting first grade and completing the final year of primary school (percent)	97,9	96,0	98,2	99,4	99,9	99,8	99,3
Girls		97,5	98,3	99,3	100,0	100,0	99,8
Boys		94 6	98,1	99,4	99,7	99,6	98,7
Rate of literacy for people between 15 and 24 years of age (percent)[a]				99,96	99,96	99,96	99,96
Women				99,95	99,95	99,95	99,95
Men				99,96	99,96	99,96	99,96

[a] Population and Homes Census 2002.

Sources: National Statistics Office.

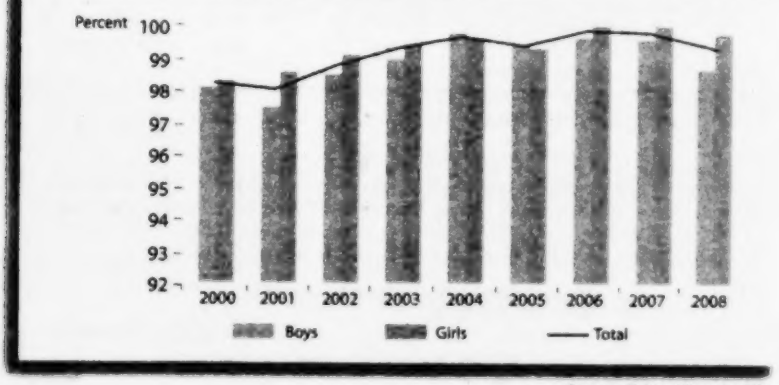


Source: National Statistics Office

Achieve universal primary education

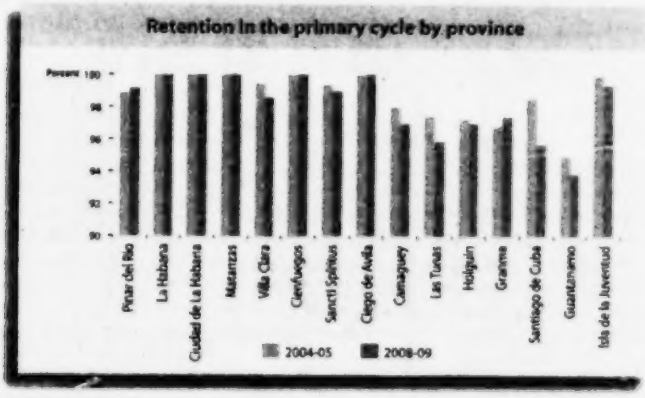
The favourable results in students' movements through the different grade levels in primary school starting with promotion contributes to the universality of this level of schooling and it can be seen in the growing trend in percentages of students who reach the last grade in respect to those that started the first grade in primary school. The chart shows that in 2000 more than 98% of the students who started first grade reached sixth grade satisfactorily six years later, in 2008, 99.3% of the students who started primary school six years earlier reached the sixth grade, and that result is similar for both sexes – in 2008, 98.7% for boys and 99.8% for girls.

Percentage of students entering Primary School who reach the sixth grade



Sources: National Statistics Office

Retention in the primary cycle by province



Sources: National Statistics Office

One factor contributing to entry into primary education and the effective transit of boys and girls through this level has been their preparation from pre-school ages by educational programmes being developed in formal institutions such as day-care centres and with the multi-sector programme called "Educate Your Child", with the participation of community workers and bodies associated with education and headed up by the Ministry of Education; this has resulted in looking after more than 99% of the population between the ages of 0 and 5 during the last ten years and from 99.5% in 2008. Variations by territory shown in this indicator during 2005-08 are not significant, showing results similar to the national average in 2008 in the provinces of Pinar del Rio, La Habana, la Ciudad de La Habana, Cienfuegos, Ciego de Avila, Las Tunas, Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo.

Especially significant and very important in order to prepare the girl and the boy before entering primary school are the results that show a rate of participation of the 5-year-old population in the pre-school grade, revealing an upward trend between 2005 and 2008 of 3.9 percentage points; and we can notice its conduct by territory where most of the provinces show results better than 98%, with the exception of Las Tunas and Granma where they reach 97.2 and 97.4% respectively.

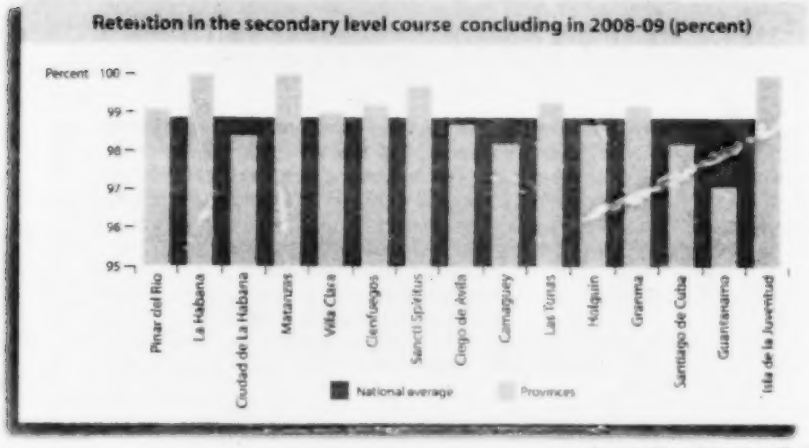
That sustained effort to raise retention and promotion in the primary education has as a result the retention rates in the formation cycle of this education level, that asses the students percentage that complete the six years study of those that started the first grade six year before, have increased from 95% to 99% in the concluded cycles of 2005-2008.

It is pointed out that the retention in the abovementioned cycle as indicator shown by the universality of primary education, becomes even more evident in its conduct by province and shows the basis of the equity attained, as shown in the chart. The least favourable indicators are reported in Guantanamo, Santiago de Cuba, Granma, Holguin and Las Tunas, even though all of them have retention rates in the primary level that are greater than 95%, except for the province of Guantanamo with 93.9%.

Education policies in force from the 1990s continued to promote aims that had been drawn up in earlier periods, such as having the entire population completing nine years of study, and in these endeavours there are important achievements.
Equity in attaining a universal basic Secondary level education in Cuba is seen in the conduct of the net rate in junior high school level, showing the proportion of students enrolled at this level in the ages covering the transit for this educational stage – 12 to 14 years old – and the population of that age group, where we can see a sustained growth from 2004 to 2008 from 88.9 to 93.2%, thus achieving an increase of 4.3 percentage points.

The continuity of education for sixth grade graduates is high, 100% for all the years from 2000 and up to 2008, without any differences to be indicated by province. This is accompanied by high retention and promotion rates in the course of basic secondary education where appears that in 2008, 98.9% of students who started

the cycle three years earlier successfully concluded the secondary level; the result is an upward swing during 2004-2008 where the retention indicator in the cycle increased from 96.7 to 98.9% and the improvement in the universalization of this education level is evident since in the cycle ending in the year 2002 that percentage was 88.5%.



Sources: National Statistics Office

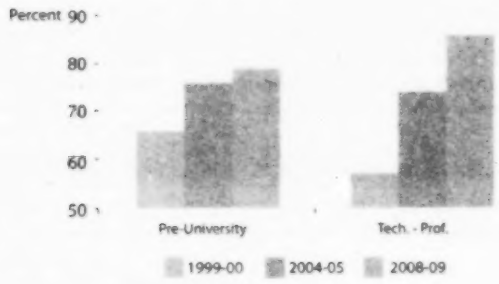
The chart shows that in 2008 the province with the lowest indicator was Guantanamo with 97.1%, the only territory in the country with less than 98%.

The results achieved in terms of universalization of primary and basic secondary education made the very high literacy rate of persons between 15 and 24 years possible. According to census data published by the National Statistics Office, corresponding to 2002, 99.96% of the youth who could read and write, 99.96% men and 99.95% women.

The Cuban education policy has promoted youth to complete the ninth grade, having the guarantee of options for further education so that they can arrive in the workforce with more years of schooling and labour training. The proportion for continuing education for ninth grade graduates up to the mid-higher level – pre-university and technical-professional has surpassed 99% since 2000 and has varied between 2005 and 2008 between 99.7 and 99.1%; the latter figure occurred during the last three school years.

In 2008-09 the improved retention rates in the Pre-University and Technical-Professional education cycle compared to the academic year ending in 2000 was from 13.0 to 28.7 percentage points, respectively. In the education cycle ending in 2009, 79.2% of the young people who entered Pre-university courses three years earlier graduated, while in Technical-Professional courses 86.0 percent completed the cycle.

Retention in the Pre-University and Thecnical Professional course (percent)



Sources: National Statistics Office

In recent years there is a continue work to achieve a greater rapprochement between mid and higher professional training and the qualified labour force demands of the future; especially, the planning, labour force and education structures have had an influence on the reorganization of the school network at the mid level as it opts for degree courses and mid-level technical specialties and qualified labour, promoting greater connections between the main bodies requiring qualified labour.

These continue to be our aims: maintain high retention and promotion in primary education and raise these aspects even more in secondary education, thus, the internal efficiency in all levels of education that make up the latter.

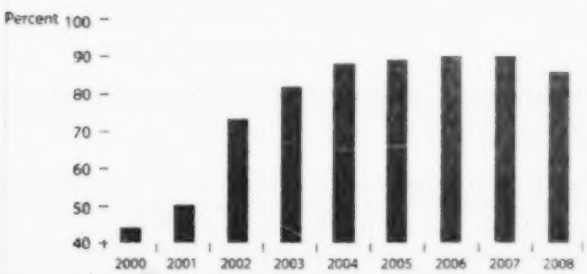
The central aim of the Cuban education policy is to continue improving the quality of learning and a sample of the advances that have already been obtained were the results reached by Cuban children in the Second Regional Comparative and Explanatory Study (SERCE), carried out by the Latin American Laboratory for Evaluation of Quality in Education (LLECE) of OREALC-UNESCO in 2006 with third and sixth grade primary students in Mathematics, Language and Natural Sciences. Cuban students obtained results above the regional average in all subjects and grades evaluated. Furthermore, in almost all evaluations, the point averages were far from the regional

averages in one and even two units deviating from the standard, in a position at the top of participating countries.

However, it is strategic for educational growth to continue moving forward in raising the quality and for these aims a group of transformations going beyond school are being developed, involving the families and the community in general in order to attain comprehensive attention for students at the primary and basic secondary levels, increasing stability and professional development of teaching staff in a permanent way and to create the material conditions in the educational facilities and in the material basis for schools to better carry out the educational services.

The chart shows that in the academic year begun in 2008, 86.9% of enrolments in primary education were looked after in groups of only 20 students, a programme that during the last ten years has allowed us to significantly improve providing differentiated attention to primary students, contributing to raising quality and learning.

Prymary Education, percentage of enrolment in groups of up to 20 students



Source: National Statistics Office, 2009

The actions described should also have an additional important impact in terms of equality of results in the area of secondary education. Disadvantaged students not only receive better quality teaching, like the rest of the students, but they are also provided with additional attention suitable for their limitations, and this should contribute for ever more effective equity.

GOAL 2. State of compliance and 2015 forecast

Conclusion

The Millennium Goal 2 is more than fulfilled in Cuba. The detailed analysis of the official indicators established for the assessment of the Goal and the complementary evaluations showing details by gender and by territories for the results in the area of education in the country demonstrate that the actions adopted in order to maintain its fulfilment and take it to higher levels in the measured period have had concrete results and empirical proof backing it up.

The results we are seeing in the country today in educational services answer to the joint work of parents and organizations such as the Cuban Women's Federation, along with the work of the teachers, academic staff and other personnel associated with the sector. Community and family organizations collaborate in the success of the programmes providing educational attention from the pre-school years, to raise school attendance and permanency by visiting those families with children who are absent from classes, supporting the functioning of the school through the Parents' Councils in every school, stimulating the work of the teacher and carrying out appropriate suggestions in order to improve services, before teachers and the community in general.

At the present time Cuban education is working on the formation of general comprehensive education; to make learning a heritage for all with no exceptions and a way to achieve complete justice.

To raise the quality of Secondary education, in particular Senior high school level; to guide specialized education to a greater extent towards the trades and the professions more in demand by the economy and to adjust the education infrastructure making it more economically efficient are the main challenges. Existing institutionality can guarantee the goal of having all children finish the complete primary cycle on time, even in financial conditions that are more difficult than the ones today.

Education for all, as expression of the struggle for equality and social justice is fully inserted into the concept developed in the country where education constitutes a social process, organized and leading to understanding Cuban society as an essentially educating society.

Goal 2 is already fulfilled in Cuba and it is forecast PROBABLE and that it be kept the same level of fulfilment during that whole period up to 2015.

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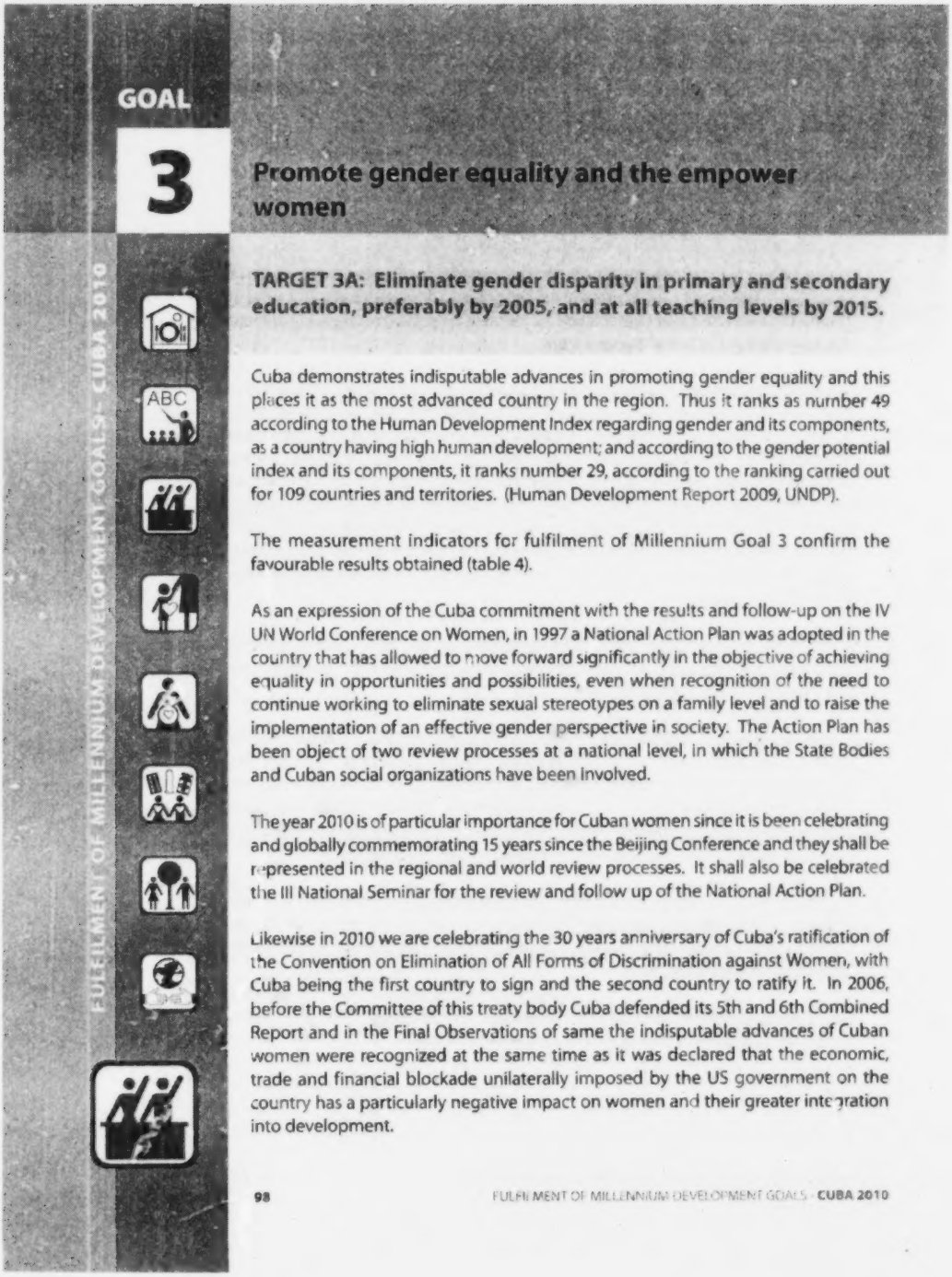


TARGET 3A: Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all teaching levels by 2015.

Cuba demonstrates indisputable advances in promoting gender equality and this places it as the most advanced country in the region. Thus it ranks as number 49 according to the Human Development Index regarding gender and its components, as a country having high human development; and according to the gender potential index and its components, it ranks number 29, according to the ranking carried out for 109 countries and territories. (Human Development Report 2009, UNDP).

The measurement indicators for fulfilment of Millennium Goal 3 confirm the favourable results obtained (table 4).

As an expression of the Cuba commitment with the results and follow-up on the IV UN World Conference on Women, in 1997 a National Action Plan was adopted in the country that has allowed to move forward significantly in the objective of achieving equality in opportunities and possibilities, even when recognition of the need to continue working to eliminate sexual stereotypes on a family level and to raise the implementation of an effective gender perspective in society. The Action Plan has been object of two review processes at a national level, in which the State Bodies and Cuban social organizations have been involved.

The year 2010 is of particular importance for Cuban women since it is been celebrating and globally commemorating 15 years since the Beijing Conference and they shall be represented in the regional and world review processes. It shall also be celebrated the III National Seminar for the review and follow up of the National Action Plan.

Likewise in 2010 we are celebrating the 30 years anniversary of Cuba's ratification of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, with Cuba being the first country to sign and the second country to ratify it. In 2006, before the Committee of this treaty body Cuba defended its 5th and 6th Combined Report and in the Final Observations of same the indisputable advances of Cuban women were recognized at the same time as it was declared that the economic, trade and financial blockade unilaterally imposed by the US government on the country has a particularly negative impact on women and their greater integration into development.

The aim for women to hold power on a par with men has moved forward in a sustained and growing fashion and the successes in this area are outstanding. In the previous legislative term, in 2003, 36% of the parliamentary seats were held by women and today they represent 43.3% in the National Assembly for the Peoples' Power; this places Cuba in the number 4 position at world level according to a publication of the Inter-parliamentary Union of 2009.

That high level of female representation in the National Assembly of the Peoples' Power, the maximum power body in the Republic of Cuba, is achieved by the advance in territorial equity in matters dealing with the empowering women. At the XI Legislature of the National Assembly of the Peoples' Power (2007-2009) in the provincial assemblies, women's participation reached the figure of 40.63% of all representatives and 27.3% at the municipal level.

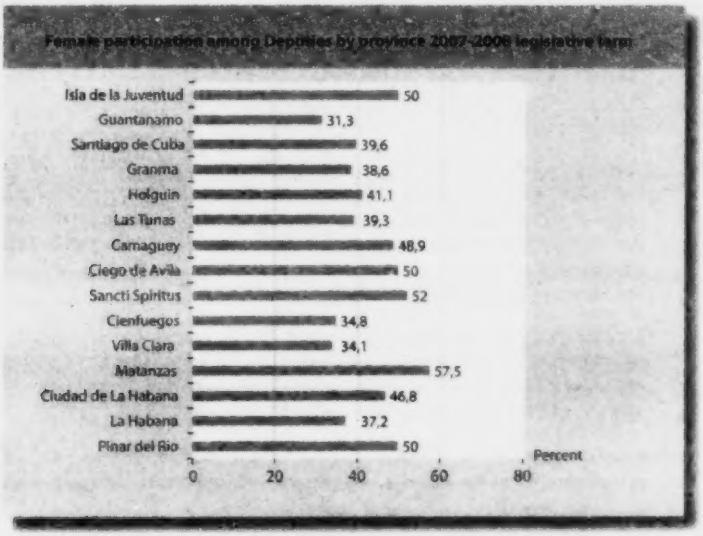
It is very significant that in the recently concluded partial elections in April 2010, the National Electoral Commission was chaired by a woman, and it's Secretary and 47% of its members were also women. In said electoral process, Cuban women raised the figure to 33.4% of delegates at grass-root level, surpassing 27.3% in 2007.

Thus, female participation among deputies from all the provinces has been on the upswing in almost all territories and that lays the foundations for the high proportion of women deputies in the National Assembly.

Table 4. Gender and empowerment indicators

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Relationship between boys and girls in primary, secondary and tertiary education (percent)							
Primary	92,5	94,9	94,6	94,8	94,7	95,1	95,2
Secondary	109,8	100,7	100,3	95,6	93,2	91,7	90,7
Tertiary	134,2	147,8	153,2	180,3	183,2	170,0	172,1
Proportion of women among paid workers in the non-agriculture sector (percent)	39,6	41,0	41,3	43,1	42,7	43,8	42,6
Proportion of seats occupied by women in national parliament (percent)	34,3	22,8	27,6	36,0	36,0	43,3	43,3

Source: National Statistics Office



Source: National Statistics Office

On the other hand, in the Council of State, and for the first time a woman is the Vice President of same, the Comptroller General of the country. Numbers of women have gone up to 40% in leadership positions at all levels, 7 women are ministers and 49 are deputy ministers, totalling 39.2%.

Even though a comprehensive strategy of promotion of women to leadership positions exists and they have been able to successfully insert themselves into the world of politics, the increase in some sectors still presents a challenge for the Cuban state and its bodies.

Sexual and reproductive rights, including the right to an abortion and free responsible choice on fertility are guaranteed and are part of the health services, free and across the board. Men and women enjoy the necessary and specialized services for family planning. Without a doubt, it is confirmed that in Cuba, these factors are important for achieving gender equality.

Cutting edge legislation guarantees and protects the working mother as expressed in the bases of fulfilment of Millennium Goal 1, by which Cuban women are ensured a maternity leave of up to one year and the possibility of sharing it between the father and the mother.

In order to make the above-mentioned protection as effective as possible, the Cuban State established financial loans for 18 months and even up to the time the minor has his or her first birthday. Also, complementary paid leaves were set up that make daily payment available for medical care for the working mother and her child, for the breast-feeding period during the newborn's first year of life, as well as non-paid leave granted to look after children under the age of 16.

Paid complementary leaves for medical and dental care are granted for 6 days or 12 half days up to 34 weeks of pregnancy. Should these not be sufficient, the administration will assume the leaves as justified absences. Up to the first year of life, one paid day of leave is granted each month for visits to the paediatrician. Working mothers returning to the job after her post-partum leave can be granted one hour per day to breast feed her baby, until the newborn is one year old.

Plans and programmes directed towards eliminating gender disparities in education at all teaching levels are continued to be improved even when said purpose has already been fully fulfilled in Cuba. The relationship between girls and boys in primary education was 95.2 in 2008, while at the secondary level, for every 100 enrolled, 90.7 were female.

It is noteworthy that at the university level the relationship between women and men in enrolment reaches 172.1 in 2008, showing proof of the feminization of this schooling in the country; at the end of that same year, 67.7% of university graduates were female.

There are two educational TV channels showing specialized programming for children, teens and young adults, broadening and reinforcing non-sexist education that follows cultural patterns promoting equality between men and women.

In regards to the participation of women in paid employment in the non-agricultural sector, women occupied 39.6% in 1990, a proportion which increased to 42.6% in 2008. It is to be noted that women are in the majority in education sectors (72%); in the health sector they represent 69.1% of workers, 58% of doctors, particularly 63.8 percent of the comprehensive doctors, and 86.4% of nursing personnel; also, 75.2% of social workers are women.

Likewise, women make up 53.5% of workers involved in science and technology and they have burst into sectors that have been traditionally dominated by men and even occupy leadership positions in them. A noticeable example is that women represent 73.7% of district attorneys in the country, 71.3% of professional judges and 41.9% of justices of the Supreme Court; also, women make up 71.3% of all the Presiding Judges in Provincial Courts in Cuba.

The National Action Plan following up the IV UN World Conference on Women recognizes the Cuban Women's Federation as the national body for the advancement of women, having a large volunteer base and 175 Houses for the Orientation of Women and the Family throughout the country facilitating, promoting and assisting for a

greater incorporation of women into economic, political and social life and to increase training in gender, coordinating actions with State bodies and social organizations in order to promote the transformations needed to set in motion the breaking of traditional male-female roles and stereotypes while at the same time looking after the correct application of suitable gender approach in policies, programmes and projects and being a theoretic-methodological reference on these subjects.

The Federation also has a Women's Training Centre that develops substantial work to prepare community leaders, a Women's Studies Centre that develops considerable research, training actions and also coordinates the work of the Women's Studies Professorship throughout Cuban universities.

Table 5. Women in the judicial system by territories

CONCEPT	AMOUNT			
	PROFESSIONAL JUDGES		DISTRICT ATTORNEYS	
	Women	Men	Women	Men
SUPREME COURT	18	25	0	0
Attorney General's Office	0	0	14	27
PROVINCES				
Pinar del Río	38	12	61	17
La Habana	42	11	59	19
Ciudad de La Habana	72	29	176	43
Matanzas	39	14	66	18
Cienfuegos	36	2	35	15
Villa Clara	44	20	84	22
Sancti Spíritus	33	12	36	16
Ciego de Avila	32	13	47	14
Camaguey	53	20	78	22
Las Tunas	36	10	38	26
Holguín	49	23	72	33
Granma	37	22	64	31
Santiago de Cuba	62	30	91	28
Guantanamo	29	13	51	20
Isla de la Juventud	9	1	11	1
TOTALS	632	254	986	352
PERCENT OF TOTAL	71,3	28,7	73,7	26,3

Source: National Statistics Office

GOAL 3. State of compliance and 2015 forecast

Conclusion

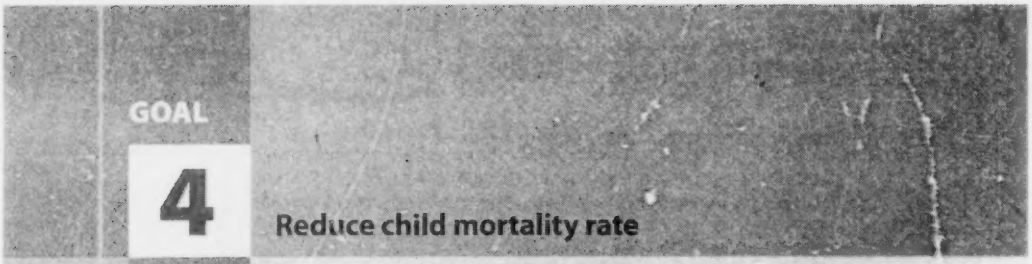
Goal 3 of the Millennium Goals, regarding promotion of gender equality and empowering women has been broadly fulfilled in Cuba. There are proven sustained and indisputable advances on the participation and insertion of women in all spheres of the economic, political and social life of the country, with verified and highly recognized achievements that are the result of inclusive policies and the express political will of the Cuban government.

The preceding does not prevent maintaining actions heading towards eradicating sexist stereotypes and cultural limitations that still survive mainly at a family level, keeping in mind the realities, conditions and goals presented.

Changes in the economic and social policies to confront the impacts of the world crises and to raise the efficiency of national economic activity can have repercussions on the population in general and particularly in women, through the transformations that would be applied in labour spheres.

However, the vulnerability which in general is attributed to women in the developing world is relatively less in Cuban women who, as a social group, rely on a higher than average and quality educational training, insertion into society on a par with men and a legislative body and institutions that look out for them with equity.
Cuba expresses, reaffirms and complies with its commitments with the international agreements and treaties on gender matters, especially with those emanating from the IV UN World Conference on Women and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

For all the preceding reasons, Goal 3 is considered FULFILLED in Cuba and it is foreseen as PROBABLE to keep it FULFILLED in the stage up to the year 2015.



GOAL

4

Reduce child mortality rate

TARGET 4A: Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.

In 2008 Cuba demonstrates child health indicators at the level of developed countries. According to State of the World's Children data in 2010, published by UNICEF, Cuba occupies the number 158 position from the 193 countries in terms of the mortality rates for children under the age of five. It is the best in the area of the Americas.

The infant mortality rate was 4.7 per 1,000 live births and the mortality rate for children under the age of five was 6.2 per 1,000 live births. The proportion of one-year-olds vaccinated for measles is 100% (table 6).

The study of the trend in the evolution of mortality in children under the age of five since 1990 shows that Target 4A of reducing by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the mortality of children under the age of five can be evaluated as probable since the current level of the indicator relative to the plans for this year already show this and it is ratified by the analysis of the trend for its future evolution.

This projection is based, primarily, on the behaviour of infant mortality. Mortality in babies less than a year old has decreased so drastically that the real value of this indicator of 4.7 per 1,000 live births is lower than what is expected for fulfilment of millennium goals in 2008 which was 5.7 per 1,000. The expected rate for 2015 is 3.6 per 1,000 live births, representing a decrease of 66.4% in the period between 1990 and 2015. The decrease of the 2008 – 2015 rate represents 23.4%.

The main causes of infant mortality in 2008 were a number of conditions related to the perinatal period and congenital malformations. During this year the neonatal mortality rate remained at under 3.5 per 1,000 live births, related to the quality of perinatal and neonatal care which received a beneficial impact in primary care due to the strengthening of our Family Doctor and Nurse Programme, the development of systematic training programmes for the professionals giving attention to the mothers and their children, as well as the revitalization of neonatal services throughout the country using cutting edge equipment.

The Genetics Programme was improved in terms of prevention, diagnosis and treatment of congenital malformations.

The principal causes of death in children under the age of one decreased in absolute numbers and in their rates. A number of perinatal conditions decreased by 8%, congenital malformations by 47% and mortality rates due to accidents

and infectious and intestinal diseases were reduced by 50 and 80% respectively; mortality due to Sepsis and Bacterial Meningitis decreased in absolute numbers, although the rate for Sepsis increased by 100% and the rate for Bacterial Meningitis was unchanged.

Neonatal mortality was sustainable reduced by 51% between 1990 and 2008, with the decrease being greater in children under 7 days old, and likewise the mortality of 28-day-old children decreased up to 11 months (post neonatal) by 63%.

Table 6. Indicators for under-five children

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Under-five child mortality rate (per one thousand live births)	13,2	12,5	9,1	8,0	7,1	6,7	6,2
Girls	11,4	11,3	7,6	7,3	6,6	6,2	5,6
Boys	14,9	13,6	10,5	8,7	7,5	7,2	6,7
Infant Mortality Rate (per one thousand live births)	10,7	9,4	7,2	6,2	5,3	5,3	4,7
Girls	9,1	8,4	5,9	5,7	4,9	4,8	4,7
Boys	12,2	10,3	8,4	6,6	5,7	5,7	5,6
Proportion of one-year-olds vaccinated for measles (percent)	94,0	99,0	94,0	98,1	100,0	100,0	100,0

Source: Ministry of Public Health

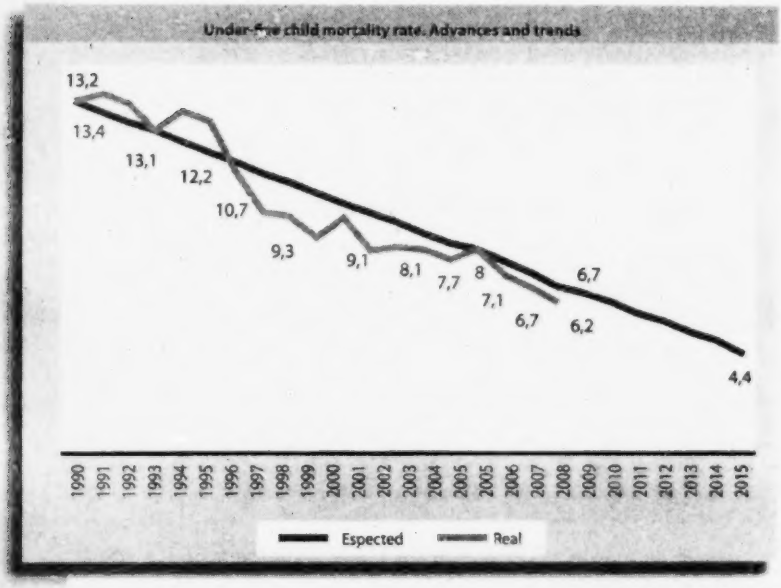
Projections for fulfilment of the Millennium Goal are also supported by the analysis of child mortality between the ages of 1 and 4. The primary cause of death in this group in 2008 was accidents, (0.7 per 10,000 inhabitants in this age group), followed by malignant tumours (0.6 per 10,000) and congenital malformations (0.5 per 10,000). Contrary to the situation in most developing countries, pneumonia and influenza are responsible for only 0.2 of the deaths of children between the ages of 1 and 4 per 10,000 inhabitants in this age group.

In order to resolve the problem of accidents, Cuba has been developing a national programme for the last 20 years for accident prevention, with favourable results, since the rate has diminished by one third between 1980 and 2008.

The mortality rate for under-five children reaches levels close to the national average in all provinces, with rates around 2.2 per 1,000 live births. For the infant mortality indicator, the differences in results are even less, with a variation of only 1.5 per 1,000, showing the equity achieved by political, social, economic, educational, environmental and health measures in infant health indicators.

Regarding gender, the mortality rate for girls is lower than that for boys (rates of 4.3 and 5.1 per 1,000 live births) and the rate for five-year-olds (5.6 and 6.7 per 1,000 live births for girls and boys respectively). This demonstrates that there are no adverse situations acting on the rights of girls in terms of mortality.

Other favourable indicators in terms of infant health are the survival of under-five-year-olds which is at 99.3%, births occurring in 99.9% of the cases in proper health facilities equipped to do deliveries and the rate of low birth rate remains at 5.1 throughout the country.



Source: Ministry of Public Health

Diseases such as polio, malaria, neonatal tetanus, diphtheria, meningoencephalitis posparotiditis, German measles, measles and whooping cough continue to be eradicated in Cuba; tetanus, hemophilus influenza type B infections, hepatitis B and meningococcal disease are not a health problem.

There is a favourable experience in Cuba with the development of a Mother-Infant Care Programme since 1970 that has been progressively improved and constitutes a priority for the government bodies and the leadership of the health sector throughout the country. This is one of the programmes that has received the most benefits from inter-sector action, with all the sectors in society contributing with concrete measures to guarantee quality care for mothers and their children.

In recent years the systems of collecting health registrations has been strengthened and paediatric, pregnancy and puerperal deaths are monitored on a daily basis along with paediatric and pregnant patients admitted to gravity care centres throughout the country.

Active screening has been developed in primary care and this constitutes a tool that allows to prevent, make early diagnoses and correctly treat conditions, thus contributes to the satisfactory evolution of the patients.

We have also improved the programmes confronting epidemics with a priority for attention to mothers and children, to the chronic childhood diseases, disabled children and the victims of natural disasters.

Actions are being developed to increase breastfeeding practices, prevent anaemia and improve puericulture practices for children and teens up to the age of 18 in order to provide them with better quality of life.

GOAL 4. State of compliance and 2015 forecast

CONCLUSION

Cuba shows significant results in the health of under- five children, to the point of being a country that can be used as a reference point for useful lessons on how to organize comprehensive and sustainable programmes to improve the health of boys and girls and to decrease mortality in those age groups, in economically developing conditions.

The task presented by Millennium Goal 4, of reducing by two-thirds the mortality of under-five children between 1990 and 2015, is an extreme necessity for the country, keeping in mind the low level of the indicator for the starting year, and that it is expensive to return to the principal causes of death that are manifesting themselves today since they require cutting edge technologies.

Nevertheless, the advance shown in 2008 allows us to state that the Millennium Goal is being fulfiled, even in quantitative terms. The priority provided to the Mother-Infant Programme, the comprehensiveness of its conception, the inter-sector nature of its practical application, the systematic improvement in its preventative, diagnostic and educational actions, as well as the permanent monitoring and assessment, are strengths that together with the political will to direct resources towards this programme are the basis of its results.

The Programme lines being emphasized and the indicator trends allow us to forecast as PROBABLE the fulfilment of this Goal in 2015.

GOAL

5

Improve maternal health

TARGET 5A: To reduce maternal mortality in three quarters between 1990 and 2015.

TARGET 5B: To achieve universal access to reproductive health by 2015.

The maternal mortality ratio in Cuba is among the lowest in Latin America, and a recent specialized study about the behaviour of this indicator from 1980 to 2008 in 181 countries, ranks us as a country with results that are on the average low and stable (The Lancet, 2010).

In 2008, maternal deaths were at 46.5 per 100,000 live births; due to direct causes it was at 29.4; due to indirect causes it was at 17.1 per 100,000 (tabla 7).

Nevertheless, the trend observed in said indicator since 1990 is separate from the one required to fulfil the millennium goal.

Maternal mortality, and principally one of its components, direct maternal mortality, has had very irregular behaviour, with a discreet decreasing trend. To achieve the millennium goals the rate must be reduced from 2008 by 77.4% and for direct mortality by 73.1%.

The principal direct causes of maternal mortality are haemorrhages, amniotic fluid embolisms and ectopic pregnancies, and therefore prioritized attention to these causes is a central factor for decreasing maternal mortality. The principal indirect causes of maternal mortality are acute respiratory infections.

The proportion of deliveries assisted by expert medical staff and at health institutions accredited for the purpose reflects the total coverage of deliveries attended by qualified personnel in the prenatal period, and even in Cuba expert personnel refers only to doctors and nursing graduates special Obstetrics.

The nutrition of an expectant mother is an aspect that is looked after; we have progressively moved forward but we must continue improving, especially in terms of reducing anaemia in pregnant women. In 2006 – the most recent available statistic- the proportion of women starting their terms with low weights was 15.7%; cases of anaemia in the first trimester (Hb <110 g/L) were reported at 12.1% while the proportion of pregnant women with anaemia in the third trimester was at 23.4%. Also, the proportion of pregnant women with insufficient weight gain (less than 8 Kg) during the pregnancy was reported at 15.4%.

The prevalence of hypertensive disease in pregnancy (167.3 per 1,000 women between 15 and 59 years old in 2006) is high but similar to that in developed countries and this corresponds with the structure of age groups giving birth: In the last 7 years more than 50% of women are over the age of 30 at the time of giving birth.

Table 7. Indicators of maternal health

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)	41,8	47,6	40,4	,4	49,4	31,1	46,5
Proportion of deliveries with the assistance of expert health personnel (percent)	99,8	99,8	99,9	99,9	99,9	99,9	99,9

Source: National Statistics Office

An element showing the improved prevention and care being given during pregnancy, especially those high-risk cases, is that in 2008, 50% of the pregnancies that were delivered had been admitted to Maternity Homes. The proven effectiveness of Maternity Homes in preventing low weight at birth and also the correction of nutritional problems during pregnancy is another existing strength to decrease even more the maternal and perinatal morbi-mortality. Efficient use of available beds as well as therapeutic diets help to correct anaemia and prevent and correct pregnancy hypertensive diseases. The contribution of the Maternity Homes in preventing maternal morbi-mortality is a fact, duly presented in current medical literature and it is one of the strengths of the health system.

On the other hand, sexual and reproductive health services are being developed to support fulfilling the millennium goal and we can observe favourable results. The rate of use of contraceptives shows that in Cuba we have the greatest contraceptive coverage in Latin America and the Caribbean, and Cuba is among the top 30 countries in the world having the best coverage. Therefore we can assess that the needs of family planning are completely being satisfied.

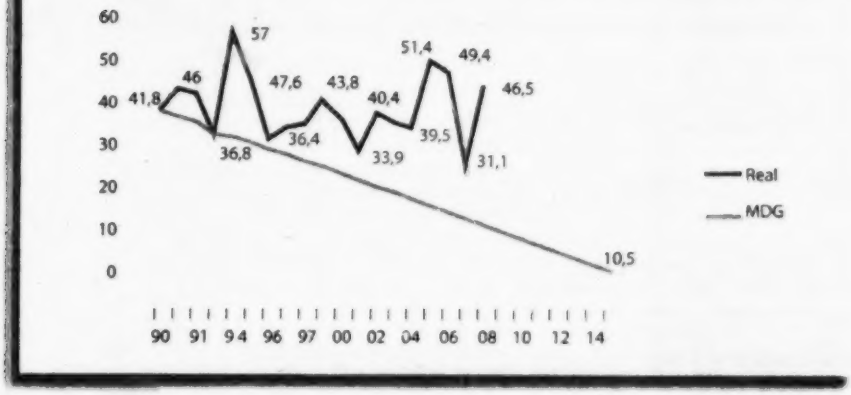
Estimations of the percentage of highly efficient contraceptive measures was at 77.1% of the total in 2007 according to studies carried out by the Ministry of Public Health, with an average in the last 10 years of 75.3% and with a forecast for 2008 of 77.6%. That indicator places Cuba in third place in the American continent with the highest contraceptive coverage, which stably surpasses 75.4% of high-efficiency coverage and can reach 80% in 2015.

Nevertheless, we must qualitatively improve the availability of contraception, since 25% of abortions are for pregnancies where contraception has failed, particularly the IUD (Intrauterine Device).

Adolescent fertility has gone down by 35% between 1990 and 2008. The specific fertility rate per 1,000 women between the ages of 15 and 19 went down from 77.5 per 1,000 to 49.2 in 2008.

However, even though the number of births, children of mothers between the ages of 15 and 19 was also reduced in a sustained manner from 1995, starting in 2005 the proportion of children of adolescents increased to 20% of the total and this relatively increases the risk of maternal mortality.

Maternal mortality. Real and expected ratio to fulfil goal 5a per 100 000 live births



Source: Ministry of Public Health

This increase is fundamentally due to the decrease of births in the 20 to 29 year-old group and with the aging of the population of reproductive age. The strategy to decrease this maternal-perinatal risk is to improve the quality of attention to pre-conception risk and effective family planning.

Coverage of pre-natal attention was at 14.5 average control visits per delivery in 2008. This indicator is high and fairly homogenous throughout the territories. It is carried out by duly focusing on the risks, including a pre-natal diagnostic for congenital anomalies. At the present time reliable strategies are being developed to improve their quality.

In order to decrease maternal mortality a specific programme was approved directed towards developing escalating high-quality Care Processes in Primary and Secondary Care Areas (Hospitals), with the aim of improving qualitative and quantitative care of women with pre-conception risks, prenatal care, the quality of care during delivery and the puerperal phase, highly qualified care of complications related to pregnancies and the puerperal phase with a view to continue improving the quality of life and to achieve a reduction by 2015 of the maternal mortality ratio to three-quarters of what existed in 1990.

GOAL 5. State of compliance and 2015 forecast

Conclusion

The level of maternal health measured in terms of mortality per 100,000 live births is one of the best in Latin America and the Caribbean, but its tendency does not allow us to state that it is on the path to fulfil Millennium Goal 5 of decreasing maternal deaths per 100,000 live births by three-quarters.

Even though the Cuban Mother-Infant Programme fulfills all the indications proposed by international bodies for health care for women and numerous practices have implemented and added to achieve the aim of reducing maternal mortality, this has not reported the expected results.

A group of factors are coming together that demand systematic and more efficient attention for pregnancies, and these are the fact that older women are becoming pregnant, the relative greater weight of adolescent pregnancies and the frequency of the occurrence of nutritional deficits.

Added to this are limitations of financial resources that make it impossible to improve the contraceptive quality and to update technologies to bring better care to the preconception risk cases and in general the providing of Gyn-Ob services. The world crises and the economic, trade and financial blockade imposed on Cuba are external difficulties that are applying pressure and affecting the opportunities to make economic restrictions more flexible in order to complement this goal.

On the national scene, we are working to raise the quality of attention to pregnant women with a comprehensive approach, through the increase in responsibility and the demands on human resources involved at each stage of the process (pregnancy, delivery and post-delivery), to increase the organization and efficiency of the entire available specialized infrastructure (from primary to secondary care), strict follow-up and timely assessment of the complications in pregnancies, and analysis of the effectiveness of the measures adopted.

Fulfilment of this goal is foreseen as PROBABLE.

GOAL

6

Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases

TARGET 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS

TARGET 6B: Achieve, by 2010, universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all those who need it

TARGET 6C: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.

The fight against HIV-AIDS received priority treatment in Cuba from the start of the alert at world scale. From 2001 the country has five-year strategic plans for the prevention and control of HIV based on multi-sector strategies which contain the Millennium Development Goals and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS, approved by consensus during the extraordinary period of sessions of the UN General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in 2001.

High priority has been given to the strengthening of the National Prevention and Control Programme through its technical reorganization at the different levels, with a gender approach from a socio-cultural perspective, with universal access to prevention, implementation of the Declaration of the Ministers for Health and Education for Latin America and the Caribbean (Mexico 2008) and the consolidation of the prevention strategy directed towards men who have sex with men.

The first cases of HIV/AIDS were diagnosed in 1986 and up to December 31, 2008 we have diagnosed a total of 10,655 HIV seropositive cases, and there were 4,070 AIDS cases reported and 1, 778 deaths.

The HIV epidemic in Cuba has been described as a low-level epidemic, slow growing, urban; it is assessed as one with low transmission but is showing no decreasing trend. (tabla 8).

The predominant form of transmission is sexual (99,4%) while blood and mother-infant transmission have been minimal and have been eliminated as health problems.

In the last five years, there have been a significant advance in the assessment of indicators of the different components of the programme through second generation

surveillance that make visible the favourable changes in sexual behaviour in the population with emphasis on the groups vulnerable to the epidemic such as:

- Sufficient and correct knowledge about STDs and HIV/AIDS prevention by age and sex groups
- Condom use in the last sexual contact in men having sex with men
- Perception of the risk in men who have sex with men
- Levels of acceptation by persons with HIV and men who have sex with men
- Increased sales of condoms

Table 8. HIV/AIDS indicators

	1990	1995	2000[a]	2005	2006	2007	2008
HIV prevalence in the 15 to 24 year-old group (percent)	...	...	0,07	0,05	0,05	0,05	0,05
Use of condoms in the last high-risk sexual contact in the 12 to 49 year-old population group (percent)	...	7,2[b]	24,8[b]	35,6[b]	39,6	...	...
Women	...	3,4[b]	17,1[b]	31,9[b]	33,5	...	...
Men	...	7,9[b]	25,7[b]	36,4[b]	41,3	...	...
Proportion of the 15 to 24 year-old population having sufficient and correct knowledge about HIV/AIDS (percent)	...	26,0[b]	43,9[b]	58,0[b]	57,8	...	...
Women	...	21,6[b]	44,7[b]	59,1[b]	60,8	...	...
Men	...	30,4[b]	43,1[b]	56,8[b]	54,9	...	...
Relationship between school attendance by orphans and non-orphans in the 10 to 14 year-old age group	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0	1,0
Proportion of the HIV carrier population with advanced infection having access to anti-retroviral medicines (percent)	...	...	38,7	100,0	100,0	100,0	100,0

[a] 2001.
[b] Referring to the 12 to 49 year-old population in provincial capitals.

Source: National Statistics Office

Cuba has moved forward in HIV prevention matters. In educating the youth, it has a national strategy directed in promoting sex education in terms of HIV. Educational programmes adapted to the needs of the young have been efficaciously applied; these are provided in such a way that they are encouraged to reduce the risk of

infection. There are also various initiatives directed towards the strengthening of communication, information and education strategies such as: a telephone Help Line, face-to-face counselling, Mobile "Life Cart" (minibus with a trailer that visits institutions and places where young people get together), S.com where young people take part in the mass media during times when TV programmes are being broadcast for young people, LAZOADENTRO magazine, a periodical for youth written by youth, producing TV mini-series, and others. The mass media supports the functioning of these initiatives.

Among the principal results of the Cuban programme we can identify the decrease in prevalence among the 15 top 24 year-old age group, an indicator of impact that had been suitably sustained by the results of the Surveys of Prevention Indicators carried out every two years by the Centre for Population and Development Studies of the National Statistics Office. The prevalence in youth between 15 and 24 years of age decreases in the 2001-2008 period from 0.07% to 0.05%.

Advances in the use of condoms and the increased percentage of young people who are knowledgeable about prevention are important. Between 1995 and 2005, the use of condoms in the last high-risk sexual contact increased by almost four times, 8 times in women, and almost 4 times in men, with a survey in 2006 reporting that 39.6% of the young people between 15 and 24 years of age who had more than one sex partner used a condom in their last contact.

The proportions of men and women using condoms in their first sexual contacts have increased: in the case of men, from 46.9% in the 2000-2002 period to 52.2% in the 2003-2005 period. And for women, from 38.0% in the 2000-2002 period to 54.3% in the 2003-2005 period.

Condom use in the 15 to 49 year-old group has increased both for sex in stable couples (from 12.2% in 2001 to 17% in 2005), and in occasional sex from 46.8% to 69.4% in 2006. In the latter, the proportion of people being protected increased by 12.4 percentage points.

Knowledge about methods of protection from VIH is rather high among Cuban women, with 75.7% of women reported who knew about 2 ways of preventing HIV transmission and the factor showing the greatest association with this indicator is the level of education, varying from 66.0% among those having a lower education level to 84.3% among those having a higher education. There are no appreciable differences between regions or between rural and urban areas.

Regarding young Cuban women, 54.9% have correct global knowledge about HIV as compared with older women, but still lower than what it should be. Global knowledge is relatively less in the eastern region and it is very much related to the educational level.

As for youth, in 2006, 57.8% had sufficient and correct knowledge on the subject, 60.8% for women and 54.9% for men.

An indicator measuring fulfilment of this millennium goal is the relationship between school attendance of orphaned children and non-orphans between the ages of 10 and 14. Attention to childhood and respect for the rights of boys and girls is a policy of the Cuban State, explicitly present in the laws in force and the transversal axis being looked after in all health programmes, thus ensuring that orphaned children and/or those affected by HIV/AIDS are no exception; the millennium indicator bears witness to that.

All the necessary efforts and resources have been in the function of guaranteeing its comprehensive development, from new school programmes and the comprehensive cultural development in the communities. All of them receive comprehensive treatment without creating any differences in family, school and social areas.

Specifically and apart from any hint of differentiation, the National Programme has developed practices that are headed by the community of persons with HIV that have been directed towards the printing of materials, projects to develop a wide array of audiovisual materials for children, didactic games, and others.

The participation of teens and young people orphaned or affected by HIV at the Annual Meetings of the Programme with Persons with HIV has been an initiative that has been ongoing since 2006. The results obtained in this annual exchange have allowed for an assessment of attention to this sensitive group as satisfactory.

Coverage of the Cuban programme for the Prevention of Maternal-Infant Transmission of HIV is sustained in universal and free coverage by a national network of polyclinics, maternal hospitals and medical offices both in urban and rural communities.

The Health System guarantees prenatal care for all pregnancies including access to an HIV test for the pregnant woman and her sex partner as a routine examination that is practiced in the country since 1987.

The national protocol to prevent maternal-infant transmission of HIV includes: access to HIV detection tests, comprehensive attention with more than 11 prenatal consultations, immunological follow-up, anti-retroviral therapy according to the national norms for mothers and children, elective C-section at 39 weeks and bottle feeding. There are protocols for clinical and laboratory follow-ups for the children up to 18 months of age.

Access by Cuban women to this programme of care and follow-up to their sexual and reproductive health, prenatal care and programmes for the prevention of maternal-infant transmission have ensured that transmission by this route should be minimal,

with a total of 34 cases in 22 years of epidemic and more than 3.8 million pregnant women being tested for HIV.

Prevalence of HIV in pregnant women between the ages of 15 and 24 has been kept stable during recent years with very low values. At the end of 2008, it was at 0.02%.

The programme deals with HIV prevention in a differentiated way for the female population. Work is coordinated with the Federation of Cuban Women through the Orientation Houses for Women and Families (community institutions at a municipal level) and health brigades in the community.

The formation of health promoters (health brigades, housewives, workers from different sectors) constitutes a key area so that the information and the educational and prevention messages can flow from woman to woman, carrying out educational and preventive activities in the community, after identification of the educational necessities.

Through national surveys it has been assessed that the mass media have been identified as the main source of information, with TV taking the top spot, pointed out by more than 95% of the people, followed by radio in second place (72%).

Next in importance after radio, is the written press or magazines and promotional materials with proportions of 66% and 65.2% respectively. Later, with more or less the same level are friends (58%) and health personnel (57%). Informal sources such as the couple and the family have had a proportional scope of 48.2% and 45% respectively.

In general, in all the sources of information indicated show a differential between the proportions of men and women that identify them. For the information sources that are widely recognized the differential between the sexes is kept in favour of women, and especially in the case of doctors, it reaches a difference of 14.1 percentage points.

In the case of men, the proportions surpass those of women basically because of movies and the informal sources such as friends, the couple and the family.

Results demonstrate that in general, with no difference between the sexes, more than 97% of persons between the ages of 12 and 49 feel they are informed.

The Epidemiological Surveillance System for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) has been in place since the 1970s and the programmes for the prevention and control of syphilis, congenital syphilis and gonorrhoea have been regularly reviewed and brought up to date according to the international criteria dealing with these infections.

Cuba has eliminated congenital syphilis as a public health problem. The Cuban Health System has formed human resources for direct attention to STDs: the surveyor-nurses, who since 1972 have dedicated their efforts to surveillance, prevention, care and control of these bodies. These surveyor-nurses are trained in epidemiological survey techniques, guidance and patient care finding and studying contacts, health education in the community and applying treatments and, most recently, in counselling techniques, techniques to control adherence to treatments from the community and in psychosocial support.

The trend for sexually transmitted infections in the country demonstrates a clear decreasing tendency.

In terms of the care of persons suffering from HIV/AIDS who require specialized treatment, Cuba has totally fulfilled this aim. Care of persons with HIV is based on the general principle sustaining the National Health System of Cuba, in other words, access, universality and free of charge.

Under the above precepts, persons with HIV have the right to use all health services independently of the degree of complexity. Furthermore, the system guarantees these persons, without any cost to them, universal access to anti-retroviral therapy, prophylaxis or treatment of opportunistic diseases and their complications, diagnostic testing and follow-up (including CD4 and Viral Load counts), as well as psychological and social attention.

Access to treatment is an essential component of a comprehensive response to the HIV epidemic and has significantly increased, receiving great contributions from the government and international cooperation mechanisms.

Since 2001, we have begun progressive availability of generic anti-retroviral medication that is manufactured in Cuba and has allowed improved access that same year, achieving 100% coverage by the end of 2002.

By the end of 2008, all adults and children with HIV that needed antiretroviral treatment were getting it; a total of 4.018.

The decrease in deaths each year due to AIDS from 24.3% in 2002 to 16.5% in 2008 is one of the greatest successes of the national programme.

In regards to malaria and other major infections, in the case of TB Cuba places as a country with the most efficient programme in the Americas having received first prize by the WHO Stop TB Secretariat on March 24, 2003, Tuberculosis Day celebrated in India, for having achieved detection and cure goals more than 4 years previously.

These results are being maintained. TB incidence at the end of 2008 was 6.9 x 100,000 inhabitants. Mortality remains below 1 x 100.000 inhabitants, closing 2008 with 0.3 x 100,000.

In Cuba, shortened treatment is applied and with direct observation since 1971, applied to 100% of the cases and indicators of more than 80% detection are reached and more than 85% cure from 1998 when we established the studies of groups. In 2008 the last year reported by WHO, the cure rate was around 91.8%.

GOAL 6. State of compliance and 2015 forecast

Conclusion

One of the principal results of the Cuban programme to combat HIV/AIDS is the containing of the epidemic for the 22 years since transmission in the country was proven to exist. Cuba remains among the countries having the lowest prevalence of HIV and in the region of the Caribbean, the second most affected on the planet and it is an exception.

Political will and action, implementation of a comprehensive programme sustained by national resources, with multi-sector action conducted by GOPELS (Operative Group for the Control and Fight against AIDS), development of qualified personnel and participation by the community and vulnerable groups has defined the country's response to the HIV/AIDS epidemic.

As a result of scrutinizing 100% of blood since 1986 and the promotion of voluntary donations, transmission of HIV by this means remains eliminated. Total coverage of the Programme for Mother-Infant Care and its insertion of action to prevent mother-infant transmission of HIV has resulted in a minimal incidence of HIV cases in children.

The impact of the antiretroviral treatment programme initiated in 2001, with free access to antiviral medication for all who need it, is shown by the decreased death rate due to AIDS. The high percentage of adults and children who are still alive after 12 months of having started treatment is a result having unmistakeable impact.

Results of the work are seen, among other indicators, in the perception of the extended risk in the population that is noted in the increased use of condoms and in the quantity of the condoms being distributed; in the level of information about HIV/AIDS in the population that is growing, and in the degree of satisfaction by persons suffering from HIV with the care they are getting at the three levels in the system.

Without any doubt, Cuba has an efficacious programme and one that is consolidating, and so the fulfilment of this goal in 2015 can be foreseen as PROBABLE. Political leadership by the Cuban authorities in the conduction of a multi-sector response with active participation by society has been crucial, as well as the financial support provided by the United Nations bodies.

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GOAL

7

Ensure environmental sustainability

TARGET 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and to reverse loss of environmental resources.

TARGET 7B: Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss.

TARGET 7C: Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

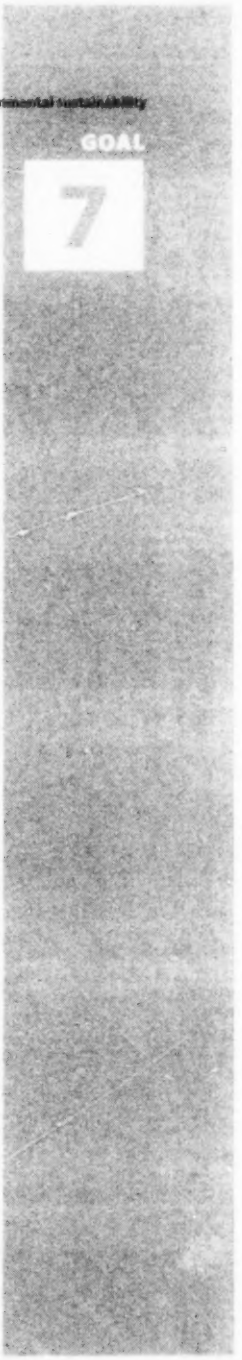
TARGET 7D: By 2020, to have achieved as significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers.

In Cuba, the incorporation of the principles of Sustainable Development into development policies and plans is considered at the Constitutional level, in particular by Article 27 of the Fundamental Law. This constitutional formulation is implemented by the existing legal and strategic frameworks.

In terms of the legislation, the Environmental Law (Law 81 of July 11, 1997) encompasses the planning of sustainable development as a basic concept, in its Article 4g) which states that "The requirements of environmental protection must be introduced into all development programmes, projects and plans".

The bodies of the Central State Administration are also obliged to "Incorporate and evaluate the environmental protection requirements in their development policies, plans and programmes. F) "To adopt planned conservation and transformation measures for the use of natural resources, developing the required systems of surveillance and control" and I) To promote measures to incorporate the environmental dimension into the economic and financial planning of works and activities projects. (Article 13)

Environmental planning is developed as a tool in law; this advises that "All plans, programmes and projects for economic and social development, either national, provincial or municipal, must be drawn up or adjusted, as the case may be, in accordance with the guiding principles of this Law, to the environmental policies, strategies and programmes established by the competent authorities and the provisions emerging from them" (Article 19), and that "measures destined for the protection of the environment form an integral and prioritized part of the plans for the carrying out of works or activities projects" (Article 20).



The National Environmental Strategy (2007) establishes a body of principles that must be considered in the development policies and plans, including:

- Assisting economic and social development on sustainable bases.
- Improving the economic-financial mechanisms that permit facing up to the principal environmental problems.
- Improvement of environmental legislation and seeking its real, efficacious and systematic fulfilment, directed towards more efficient controls.
- Improving the current environmental management instruments and the development of new instruments that are required, as support for decision-making in different moments.
- Sustaining environmental work with an inter-sector approach on the basis of coordination and cooperation between environmental authorities, social organizations, NGOs, as well as then different bodies, their unions of companies and companies in the territories.
- Applying principles of management integrated with the hydrographic basins, as a key element in Cuban environmental management, emphasizing integration of the coastal area, and an eco-system approach in order to solve environmental problems, keeping in mind the nature of the Cuban archipelago.

In 2010 the second cycle of the National Environmental Strategy ends, a period of intense evaluative work that has important results for the environmental agenda and identifies those areas where we should continue to work in the 2011-2015 cycle.

These and other principles which contribute to sustainability are at the same time incorporated into the Environmental Strategies of the production and service sectors. Every territory in its turn adapts the Environmental Strategy to its development policies and plans.

For the year 1990, the land area in Cuba covered by forests was estimated at 18.7%. Activity is strengthened with the passing of Law No. 85 "Forestry Law" of August 31, 1998, the juridical instrument having a profound environmental character and considered to be very advanced by the specialists and experts in many countries, and this activity has contributed to Cuba becoming one of the few countries in the world annually showing a sustained increase in its forest coverage.

In 2006, the Republic of Cuba National Forestry Programme is put into action until 2015; its principal objective is to achieve a 29.3% forested rate and a modernized and diversified forest industry by the end of the implementation period, in such a way that forest resources would increasingly satisfy, and be governed by the principles of Sustainable Forestry Management, the main demands for goods and services that forests provide for Cuban society.

At the close of 2008, 25.7% of land area was covered by forests, and of these, 84.2% corresponded to natural forests.

The common factors affecting the country's forests are forest fires; combined with the accumulation of combustible material, products of past meteorological events,

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this result in losses. Another element is the lack of rainfall accumulation which bring with it increased drought conditions. These factors together with other natural or man-created causes condition the occurrence and spread of forest fires.

Table 9. Indicators of environmental sustainability

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Proporción de la superficie cubierta de bosques (por ciento)	18,7	21,9	22,2	24,5	24,9	25,3	25,7
Emisiones de dióxido de carbono [a]							
Total (MMt)	33,9	22,2	26,6	24,2[b]	...	...	...
Per cápita (ton./hab.)	3,2	2,0	2,4	2,2	...	...	...
Por cada peso del PIB	0,001	0,001	0,001	0,001	...	...	...
Consumo de sustancias que agotan la capa de ozono (ton PAO)	975,7	621,2	574,0	240,9	271,0	104,4	88,6
Proporción del total de recursos hídricos utilizada (por ciento)	18,3	16,0	16,0	10,4	12,7	13,0	16,1
Proporción de las áreas terrestres y marinas protegidas (por ciento)			3,0[c]	3,0	3,0	3,0	5,6
Proporción de especies en peligro de extinción (por ciento)							0,49
Flora vascular							0,47
Fauna							0,52

[a] Emisiones recalculadas por la metodología aplicada para "Remociones de gases de invernadero en Cuba". Reporte preliminar para el año 2004. CITMA/AMA/Instituto de Meteorología.

[b] Corresponde al 2004.

[c] 2001

Source: National Statistics Office

The ratio of forested areas affected by forest fires has been diminishing since 2004, going from 5.1 to 1.3, showing the favourable results of the prevention programmes established throughout national territory. We have strengthened measures and prevention efforts and confrontation of disasters produced by the fires. By the same token, we have created the technical capacities for fire management and we have drawn up a number of documents on practice and training, such as for example the "Rapid Guide for Investigating the Causes of Forest Fires". Another contributing factor is the greater effectiveness of the Forest Ranger warning system and the training practices and spreading of environmental information.

In terms of greenhouse gas emissions, Cuba maintains systematic surveillance of emissions and removals through the Technical Team for Greenhouse Gases (ETGEI) coordinated by the Meteorological Institute, belonging to the Environmental Agency (AMA) of the Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment (CITMA) and with the participation of other Cuban government bodies and institutions.

Reports on the behaviour of the greenhouse gas emissions having the greatest effect on climate show that, in the case of Cuba, the principal emissions are carbon dioxide (CO_2) basically associated with the burning of fossil fuels. The emissions, coming from energy activities, make up around 95% of total CO_2 emissions in the country. The main contributors to these emissions, besides the energy industry, are factories and the construction industry. At the end of 2004, date of the last National Inventory, we noticed a notable decrease in CO_2 emissions per capita, from 32% in 1990.

From the year 2005, the country began developing a body of programmes in the national energy sector, today recognized as the Energy Revolution, with the aim of achieving increased capacity for the generating of electricity with efficient technologies, reduction in the consumption of fuel through saving and the rational use of energy, as well as encouraging the development of renewable sources of energy.

As part of this Cuban Energy Revolution more than 27 million energy-guzzling electrical appliances or devices were replaced and approximately 9.5 million light bulbs were replaced with more efficient ones; besides creating a better quality of life for the population, this has meant an important reduction of greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.

In February 2007, the highest leadership of the Cuban government, through agreements made by its Council of Ministers, put into force Cuban society's Programme for Facing Climatic Change. This programme in essence indicates the actions that must be taken by the different national sectors in order to face climatic change, both in adaptations and in mitigations.

In a similar direction, both the National Environmental Strategy in force as well as the Environmental Strategies of the different national sectors plan actions that will be advantageous for the reduction of gases that cause climatic change.
Even when Cuba's emissions do not reach 0.02% of the world's emissions of greenhouse gases, the programmes underway will contribute to their reduction and constitute a show of political will by the Cuban State in confronting this serious global problem.

In terms of the consumption of ozone-depleting substances (ODS), Cuba as a signing country and active participant of the Montreal Protocol and all its amendments, is currently fully implementing the National Programme to eliminate said substances, according to the elimination schedule established by this international agreement.

Values corresponding to national ODS consumption have been diminished by 87% between 1997 and 2008. Of the amount remaining to be eliminated, 84% corresponds to national consumption of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC).

10-54912

Ensure environmental sustainability

GOAL 7

Until the present, Cuba has been fully fulfilling commitments internationally taken on by virtue of this instrument, managing to accelerate the elimination of most of the substances, with the exception of hydrochlorofluorocarbons (HCFC) whose consumption has increased slightly basically due to their use as a CFC replacement, once the reduction of 100% consumption of these had been previously established by the Montreal Protocol for 2040. With the recent decision to accelerate the schedule for HCFC elimination, Cuba is now immersed in preparing the management plan for eliminating these substances.

By means of the project to eliminate Methyl Bromide in Tobacco, we have practically eliminated its use in this sector and through the programme of replacing inefficient, energy-guzzling refrigerators and air conditioners that function with chlorofluorocarbons (CFC), we have achieved important results. In 2009, Cuba ends importing CFC as part of the obligation the country has taken on as signatory of the Montreal Protocol.

Taking into consideration the decreasing trend in consuming the large part of ODS and national efforts being carried out in order to fulfil all the national commitments acquired by virtue of the Montreal Protocol, it is foreseen that this goal shall be easily attainable.

Protected land and maritime areas receive special treatment. Since 1959, the first steps were being taken to create protected areas, with 9 national parks and 5 natural reserves being declared; the latter with personnel and infrastructures in place. In the 1970s, the first proposals for protected areas systems were made and in 1989 the first proposal for a system of 73 areas structured in units and categories is made and in that decade the first 4 Biosphere Reserves were also declared.

The Ministry of Science, Technology and the Environment (CITMA) is created in 1994, and takes on the leadership for the system, implemented from 1995 through the National Centre for Protected Areas (CNAP) as the body under its leadership. Important results were achieved in this phase, such as the drawing up and implementing of Decree-Law 201/99 on Protected Areas, legal recognition of 45 protected areas by the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers (CECM), the declaration of two of these as World Natural Heritage Sites, two new Biosphere Reserves and six Ramsar sites (Internationally Important Wetlands), redefining and making the National System of Protected Areas (SNAP) more precise and creating the first System Strategic Plan 2003-2008.

During 2008, we carried out an exhaustive process of review and updating of SNAP in order to draw up Plan 2009-2013 of the above-mentioned system. As a result, we have identified a total of 253 protected areas; of these, 91 having national importance and 162 having local importance. The area occupied by the 253 identified protected areas represents 19.9% of national territory (including the insular maritime platform); of this, 24.8% corresponds to the surface of the insular maritime platform and 16.8% corresponds to the land surface of the country.

The biological diversity of the Cuban archipelago is characterized by the remarkable value in its natural medium, the great diversity of ecosystems present and the high degree of endemic qualities of its biotic resources. Therefore, national territory is a representative and unique exponent of regional and world heritage.

The flora of Cuba is considered to be one of the richest insular floras in the world. The most important characteristic about Cuban flora is how highly endemic it is, and that it places Cuba as a principal centre of evolution and speciation in the West Indies, one of the most important among the world's islands. This is based on the fact that 52.4% of the higher plants are endemic.

National System of Protected Areas

Source. National Center for Protected Areas (CNAP).

In regards to Cuban fauna, 17,790 species are recognized, but there are still many zoological groups that haven't been thoroughly studied, especially invertebrates, and for that reason this number will certainly increase with the appearance of new species. Even though knowledge about the fauna is not as great as that about the flora, diversity in groups such as molluscs (2,913 known species), arachnids (1,422 species), insects (7,493), CITMA estimates that there are still considerable numbers of species still to be discovered.

Out of 0.49% of the endangered species; 0.47% corresponds to vascular flora and 0.52% to fauna. Until 2008, the National System of Protected Areas gave coverage, in the case of endangered species, to 77% of vegetal species and 82.3% of fauna species.

To turn this trend around, we are implementing a number of actions, collected in the National Strategy on Biological Diversity and its Action Plan 2006-2010, which sustains itself on three basic pillars: conservation, sustainable use and distribution of benefits for its use, in our economic and social context.

Besides the National Strategy on Biological Diversity and the National Environmental Strategy there are other plans and programmes that include goals and specific indicators that contribute to improving national actions. These are:

- National System of Protected Areas of Cuba Strategic Plan
- National Environmental Education Strategy
- National Forest Fire Management Strategy
- National Forestry Programme 2000-2015

- Strategy for the conservation of fungus diversity in Cuba
- National Phytogenetic Resources Action Plan
- Biological Diversity in National Interest Basins Programme
- National Biosecurity Action Plan
- National Program for the Improvement and Conservation of the Soil
- National Programme to Fight Against Desertification and Drought
- The Turquino Plan (Comprehensive Development of Mountain Areas)
- Environmental strategies in different sectors of the economy and the territories

To accentuate the sustainability of the environment we are especially working in terms of energy use. In 1993 the Programme for the Development of National Sources of Energy is approved by the government with the purpose of reorganizing and activating the policies and measures that would permit confronting the difficult energy situation of the moment.

The renewability of the country's energy provisions, at the end of 2008, went to 10.7% maintaining the predominant use of sugar cane pulp and other residuals of the sugar agro-industry as the principal source. Likewise, the renewability in consumption in the same period was at 10% Both indicators showed unfavourable trends in recent years; current national programmes in progress, directed towards the exploitation of renewable sources of energy, especially wind-powered, hydro energy, photovoltaic and biomass, both sugarcane and forestry-based, will allow us to ensure adequate future behaviour for the country's energy renewability. As a result of these national programmes, at the close of 2008, the contribution of renewable energy sources represented 19.9% of the total of the country's primary energy production; this means an increase of 0.6 percentage points as compared to the close of 2007.

Applied energy development in the country has also been translated into the sharp drop in the proportion of the population using solid fuels. Suffice it to say that in 2002, 27.3% of the population was using solid fuels, with 68% of this consumption in rural areas. The above-mentioned measures have permitted, by the end of 2008, the reduction of total consumption to 2.5% nation wide with only 9.1% in rural areas.

Biological and fishing productivity on the Cuban platform is limited, therefore, rational management of these resources is a result of particular importance. At the present time, Cuba, like many countries in the world, shows a diminishing tendency in its ocean catches, the product of diminishing resources and the negative influence that other anthropic and environmental factors have on them. Various measures have been taken trying to improve, or at least to stabilize, this situation; among them eliminating the most aggressive fishing practices for the species and the environment, establishing protected areas (Areas Under Special Uses and Protection) that limit or eliminate fishing activities in them, implementing new minimum limits for the catching of different species, controlling fishing efforts during the reproduction cycles of some species in critical conditions, introducing longer fishing curfews during reproductive periods and collaboration in the introduction of Protected Maritime Areas.

To move forward in achieving sustainable development in the country we are carrying out and prioritizing investments. In 1997, the Economic Plan began to set aside an Investment Plan for the Environment favouring a higher level of coordination between

State Central Administration Bodies (OACES) and their business bodies, institutions in charge of the country's and environmental economic regulation.

Since that time, we have been working on improving the process of analysis and incorporation of resources destined for the environment within the Annual Investment Plan, improving information quality, coordinating the Plan with the OACES at the beginning of the year and early identification of territorial environmental priorities that must be kept in mind when making up the sector plans and in the improvement and consolidation of execution control mechanisms of the figures envisaged in the Plan.

From 2000 until 2008, the environmental investment levels have ranged between 5.9 and 9.4% of total volume of annual investments, at the same time with an increasing tendency in absolute terms.

As for the total proportion of used water resources, this maintains an unstable behaviour during the entire period, obeying, among other factors, the variability of the climate since there is direct dependence of water availability on the annual and hyper-annual behaviour of rainfall.

Table No. 10 Proportion of total used water resources (percent)

Proportion of total used water resources (percent)	1990	1995	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	18,3	16,0	16,0	14,4	13,5	17,1	14,8	10,4	12,7	13,0	16,1

Source: National Statistics Officer

Every year it is planned the use of 18% of the total water renewable resources o potentially existing in the country and more than 50% of resources available for exploitation. In terms of policy application in the management of water and hydraulic resources in the country, we have been working on what we call the plan for the use of annual frequency water since the 1980s; this constitutes a relationship between the availability of and demand for water, as a consensus mechanism ensuring its sustainable use. As an important cornerstone of this practice, we plan the use of 9 hydrographic basins classified as "of national interest", where we plan on using approximately 30% of the total balanced water in the country.

In Cuba we are faced with the need to have sustainable water use and the creation of greater awareness of this fact, made compulsory among other factors, by the relative shortage of water in vulnerable areas, the losses suffered in its original quality due to the effect of anthropic activities in determined areas, losses in conduction because of inefficiencies in operations systems and by the application of inadequate technologies, with emphasis on irrigation of crops. Furthermore, this necessity is

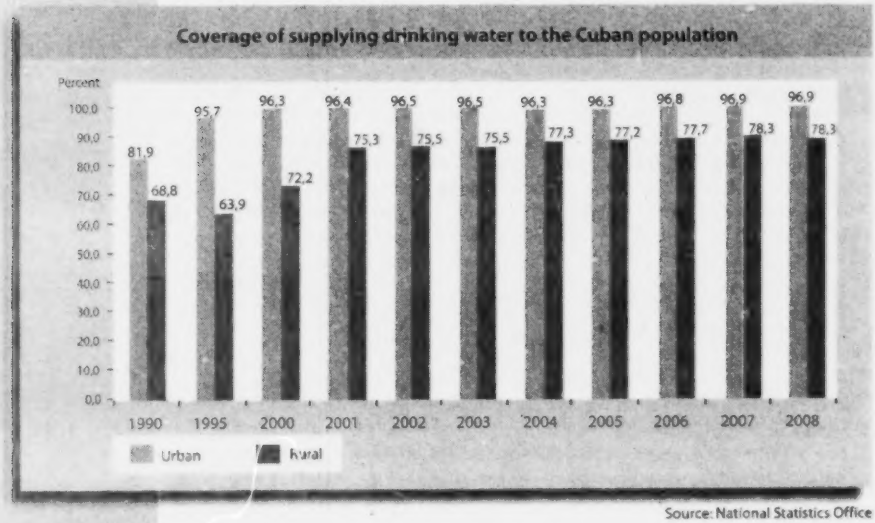
bolstered by a complicated climatic context that is determining the more frequent occurrence of extreme phenomena (extended droughts and hurricanes). The drought which affected the country starting in 2002, constituted the most critical event of its kind that Cuba has faced since the previous century.

In this same context, the Government Strategy for Confronting the Drought Until 2012 was defined; with emerging, mid-term and strategic measures, among which there is a rehabilitation and modernization plan of the supply network and aqueduct until 2012, in the principal cities of the country: Ciudad de La Habana (the capital), Santiago de Cuba (second important city), Camaguey, Holguin, Las Tunas, Guantanamo and others like Trinidad; as well as other provincial and municipal centres that will allow us to increase the efficiency of water usage, reduce losses in the network that reach up to 60% in some of them, increase the availability of water for all uses and a better supply of water to the population.

Table 11. Proportion of the population with sustainable access to improved water supply sources

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Proportion of the population with sustainable access to improved water supply sources (percent)	78,2	87,3	90,3	91,6	92,1	92,4	92,4

Source: National Statistics Office



Source: National Statistics Office

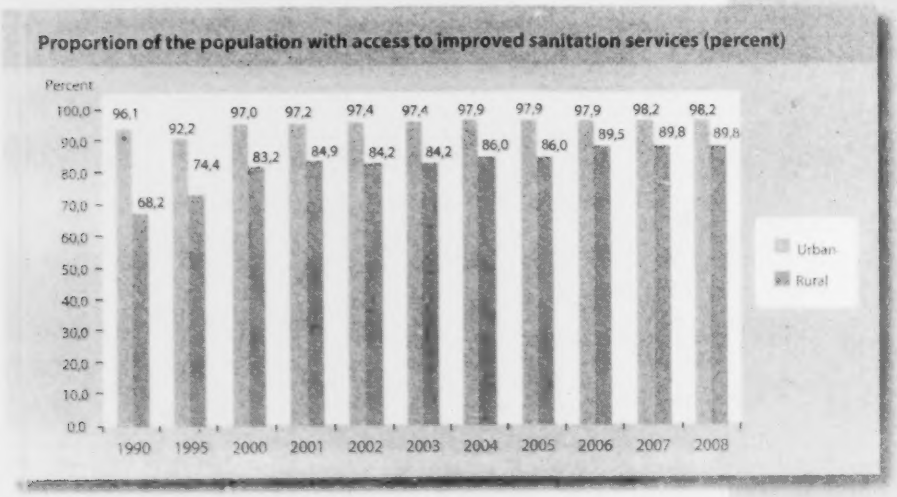
We are also applying the Saving and Rational Use of Water Programme (PAURA) that involves different lines of action in order to achieve sustainable use of water resources and of water in general.

As a strategic projection to diminish the relative shortage of water in certain regions and to increase its availability, being at the same time an important adaptation measure in the face of the impact of climatic change, the Cuban government indicated the need to develop a broad-based investment plan that would make use of the water resources existing in mountainous areas that could be used in the lowlands having economic, social and environmental importance.

Table 12: Proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation services

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2006	2007	2008
Proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation services	88,7	87,7	93,7	95,0	95,9	96,1	95,8

Source: National Statistics Office



Source: National Statistics Office

An important rural Aqueduct Programme was begun in 1980, with the cooperation of UNICEF, and by the end of 2002 it was in place in all communities having more than 300 inhabitants, benefiting some 3,220 communities, representing drinking water for approximately 1,853,600 inhabitants.

Between 1990 and 2008, a process of reorganization is developed, modifying the structure, functions and powers of the National Hydraulics Resources Institute (INRH). It is important to note the promulgation on July 1, 1993 of Decree Law No. 138 on Terrestrial Waters, directed towards the sustainability of the natural resource.

In the years that followed, INRH focused on mitigating the effects of the drought, fundamentally in an area as sensitive as the supply of water to the population. A strong and constructive investment process destined to broaden the hydraulic infrastructure, to rehabilitate conduit and distribution networks of drinking water, and works to finish environmental sanitation, whose results start being seen in 2004, continuing during all of 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008.

Target 7C to halve the number of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water is a goal fulfilled in the country for various years now.

Sanitation services in 2008 covered 95.8% of the population as compared to 88.7% in 1990; this reaffirms the fulfilment of Millennium Development Goal 7, as Table No. 12 shows.

In urban areas, sanitation coverage is favourable, with the system involving 97.7% of the total of the population. The provinces with the most unfavourable situation are Santiago de Cuba and Guantanamo with 86.0% and 81.3% of its urban populations being served, respectively. It is noted favourable evolution in terms of the percentage of access through household connections, of 66.1% in 1990 to 74.6% in 2008.

Table 13. Population served by household connections

CONCEPT	1990			2008		
	Total	Urban area	Rural area	Total	Urban area	Rural area
Population with access to drinking water	**78,2**	**81,9**	**68,8**	**92,4**	**96,9**	**78,3**
With:						
Household connection	66,0	--	--	74,6	86,9	36,8
Public service	7,0	--	--	5,4	3,4	11,5
Easy Access	5,1	--	--	12,4	6,6	30,0
Population without access to drinking water	**21,8**	**18,1**	**31,2**	**7,6**	**3,1**	**21,7**

Source: National Statistics Office

In the national context, Cuba stands out with its high coverage of water and sanitation. These levels have been reached during difficult economic circumstances and without having the collaboration of the international financial organizations. The quality of the services is a key aspect in the sector and is related to potability, supply per capita and opportunity (time of service).

The potability levels have been restored and are quite high in all the provinces since as an average more than 95% of supplied water is treated and the availability per capita (gross) shows acceptable levels, varying by province with lesser values in Santiago de Cuba (309 litres per person per day), Las Tunas (315), Granma (348) and Holguin (385), with a national average of 574 litres per person per day.

However, average service time (TMS) is 12 hours/day and constitutes the least satisfactory indicator. The intermittency of service forces part of the population, including those receiving household service, to store water in tanks and other recipients, and thus it may reduce the effects of water treatment; the poor condition of the distribution network also contributes to that factor.

As part of preventive actions against the effects of the drought that affected the eastern region during the last five years of the nineties and up to 2005, efforts are been made to search for new sources in some areas and the construction of inter-basin transfer.

Rainfall Area distribution is uneven throughout Cuba, obeying three principal factors: the influence of atmospheric processes that does not present itself in the same way in the different regions of the country, land relief characteristics and the considerable influence of uneven warming of the coastal waters (rainfall increases in relation to the distance from the coasts). In recent decades, we have observed an increase in the accumulation during the drier season and some decrease in accumulations during the rainy season.

In regards to environmental sanitation by collection of solid waste, the percentage of the population with access has gone up and down around 75% between 2000 and 2008, a year that has been taken as a basis for this comparison. Smaller settlements in terms of population or those that are isolated are not exempted from this service since in these cases animal power is used, thus staying close to this figure since 2000.

In Cuba the degree of urbanization has increased to a national level of 73.9% in 1990, and 75.3% in 2008. Unstable housing and settlements in Cuba receive prioritized attention in the country's housing plans and programmes, even though they do not constitute a serious problem because of their size or social conditions.

Housing instability in the country includes so-called cuarterias and ciudadelas (rooms created from dividing up the large ancient residences, characterized by their advanced state of deterioration, overcrowding and collective services with their poor hygiene toilet conditions), and the unhealthy neighbourhoods and focos (spontaneous settlements characterized by the poor quality of the houses, lack of infrastructure and urbanization, and the insufficiency of the services).

At the present time, people living in unstable housing such as those mentioned above, represent just 0.6% of the country's population. On the other hand, people living in these houses and settlements, unlike the slum phenomenon in other countries, are not economically or socially segregated or marginalized, being the object of personalized social attention and incorporated into the labour force and having health and education indicators similar to the rest of the country.

Measures are applied to slow down their growth and proliferation. There are also feasible solutions in legal and social concerns and strategies and plans are established to carry out their gradual eradication or transformation, depending upon the country's economic possibilities.

According to inventories made of the cuarterias, 50% of them could be transformed into adequate housing and the other 50% could be resolved by replacement with new homes and settlements.

Likewise, specific work continues on the programme to eradicate or improve the more or less 900 neighbourhoods and focos that are still in existence, basically directed towards transforming those that can be improved via rehabilitation.

One aspect being increasingly looked after, closely related to the impact of climatic change refers to housing that is vulnerable to climatic events. The main housing vulnerabilities are to be found in homes in average or bad state of repair, those that have a weak structure, especially in the roofs.

Also buildings that are deteriorated because of the salt sea air, more vulnerable to structural overloading caused by any climatic change.

The main risks in housing occur due to the intense hydro-meteorological phenomena. From 2001 until the present, Cuba has been ravaged by ten hurricanes of great intensity that caused damages to more than a million and a half homes, of which 160 thousand were completely destroyed.

In 2008, 17% of the total number of homes suffered severe damage from the impact of three hurricanes of great intensity, with 600,032 homes affected, added to those damages from previous disasters.

The victims' priorities were to recover their homes. In 18 months, up to May of this year, 68% of affected homes have been looked after; mainly those that partially or totally lost their roofs. Until the present, 24,000 new homes have been built to replace those that were totally destroyed, but another 66,000 remain to be looked after in the mid-term.

Forty seven percent of construction efforts to conserve and rehabilitate homes being carried out this year, has the direct priority of recovering partial climatic-caused damage, including final solutions for total and partial destruction of roofs, still to be carried out (some 70,000 and 33,000 respectively).

Besides recovering damaged or lost homes, we are implementing a policy and plans to gradually reduce vulnerabilities, as the vulnerability and risk studies in homes and settlements, raising new home constructions with solid roofs to resist hurricanes, replacing light-weight roofs on existing homes and relocating settlements from risk zones. State assistance is provided to the victims, not just by providing new homes and fixing the damaged ones but by assigning materials at highly subsidized costs, along with equipment and furnishings, etc.

GOAL 7. State of compliance and 2015 forecast

Conclusion

Cuba has a history of more than 20 years working on harmonizing socioeconomic activities and the care of natural resources. It is an example of incorporating the principles of sustainable development into national policies and programmes, and it shows favourable indicators and, in accordance with international commitments on reducing losses of environmental resources in forestation, air, water resources and in the protection of land and maritime areas.

It shows solid institutionality in the protection of biological diversity even though available indicators still do not permit to provide a clear view of the significant reduction of the loss ratio of biodiversity.

The goals of raising sustainable access to drinking water and sanitation services have been fulfilled for several years now, and the programmes in progress to combat the drought and losses in the networks allow us to keep an eye on favourable trends so that those guarantees may remain in perspective until 2015 and the quality of services improves.

Even though the presence of slums is not a problem of any considerable magnitude, the lives of Cubans are affected by the occurrence of extreme events that we expect will increase in frequency as a result of the climate change, and this will bring vulnerability and risk with it. The situation of being an archipelago and the economic problems coming from the world crises and the economic, trade and financial blockade accentuate the uncertainty about tendencies that may happen in the improvement of the technical state of homes and the drop in the deficit of homes existing today.

Advances achieved up to the present day have been possible, besides the political decision and persistence of moving forward the socio-economic and environmental development of the country, by the use of planning as the essential development economic instrument and by the creation of outstanding institutions and research centres that have gone on improving their work throughout this period, evaluating the situation of the different national ecosystems, closely associated with the development decisions of each of the vital sectors of the economy. However, we require huge resources.

Taking into account the abovementioned, the fulfilment of the Goal in 2015 of ensuring environmental sustainability is assessed as POTENTIALLY PROBABLE.

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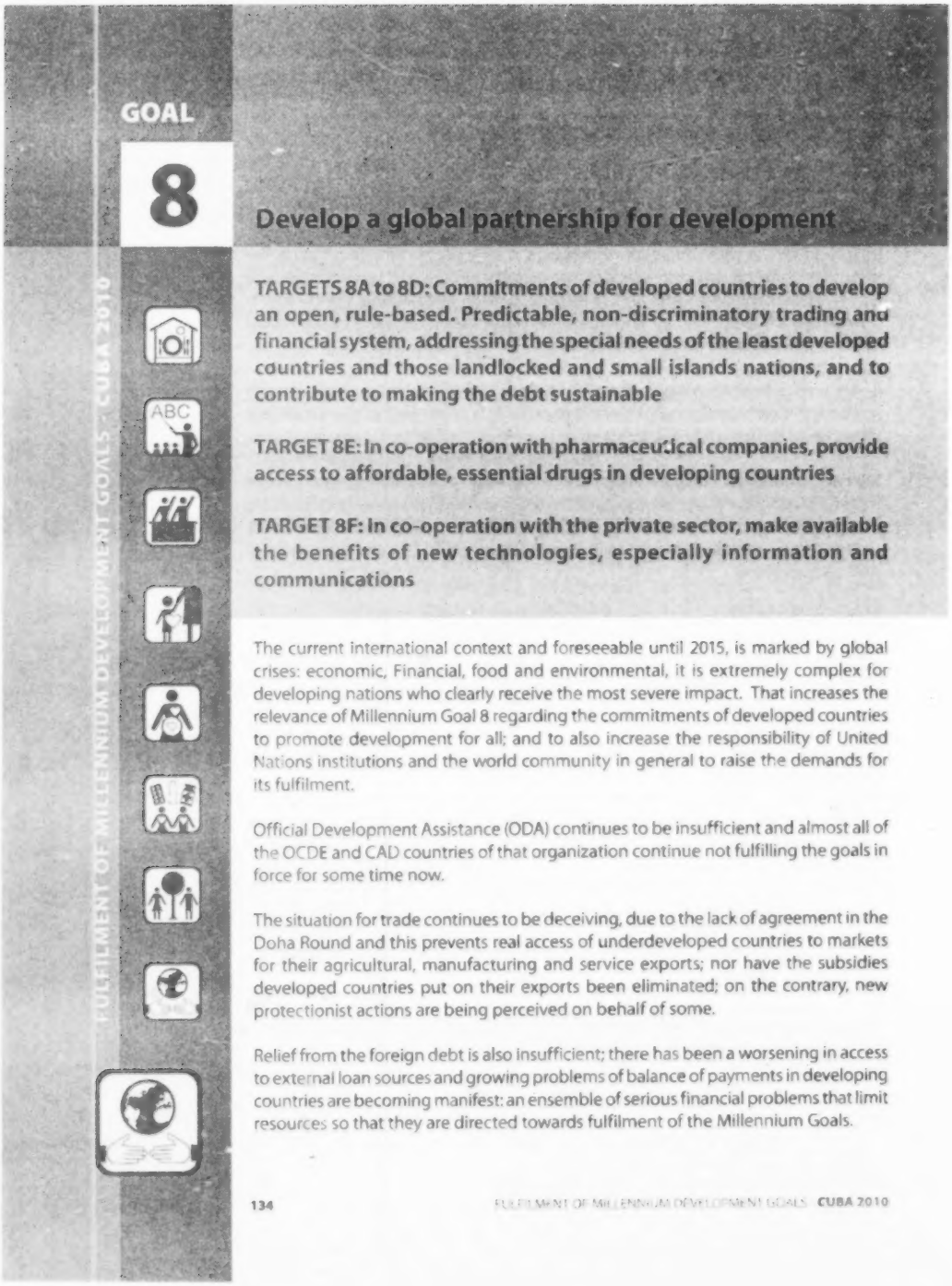


TARGETS 8A to 8D: Commitments of developed countries to develop an open, rule-based. Predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system, addressing the special needs of the least developed countries and those landlocked and small islands nations, and to contribute to making the debt sustainable

TARGET 8E: In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries

TARGET 8F: In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications

The current international context and foreseeable until 2015, is marked by global crises: economic, Financial, food and environmental, it is extremely complex for developing nations who clearly receive the most severe impact. That increases the relevance of Millennium Goal 8 regarding the commitments of developed countries to promote development for all; and to also increase the responsibility of United Nations institutions and the world community in general to raise the demands for its fulfilment.

Official Development Assistance (ODA) continues to be insufficient and almost all of the OCDE and CAD countries of that organization continue not fulfilling the goals in force for some time now.

The situation for trade continues to be deceiving, due to the lack of agreement in the Doha Round and this prevents real access of underdeveloped countries to markets for their agricultural, manufacturing and service exports; nor have the subsidies developed countries put on their exports been eliminated; on the contrary, new protectionist actions are being perceived on behalf of some.

Relief from the foreign debt is also insufficient; there has been a worsening in access to external loan sources and growing problems of balance of payments in developing countries are becoming manifest: an ensemble of serious financial problems that limit resources so that they are directed towards fulfilment of the Millennium Goals.

The Cuban population, moreover, continues to suffer because of the damage the economic, trade and financial blockade of the United States causes and that, in 2009, reached a total cost of 100,154.2 million USD.

Table 14. Damages and economic disadvantages of the blockade 2009

	MM USD
Income not received for exports of goods and services	46 164,6
Geographical relocation of trade	21 600,8
Effects on production and services	3 246,3
No access to technology	9 323,2
Effects on services to the population	1 565,3
Monetary-financial effects	10 078,9
Inciting emigration and the "brain-drain"	8 175,1
TOTAL	**100 154,2**

Source: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Cuba

By contrast, Cuba provides international cooperation to other countries while being an underdeveloped country.

From 1961 to 2008, more than 448,649 collaborators have provided their contributions in 167 countries. Today, close to 50,000 Cuban collaborators are working abroad in 98 countries and 4 overseas territories, of these 37,000 are in the health sector.

Up to the 2008-2009 academic year, 55,200 young people from 134 countries have graduated in Cuba, 43% from the mid level and 57% from the university level. Enrolment in the 2009-2010 academic year reached the figure of 30,500 thousand scholarship students coming from 125 countries.

In the above-mentioned international collaboration, donations of health services stand out for their numbers and extensions in the Supply Method 4 (Technical Assistance), consisting in sending professionals to countries suffering from complicated health situations or disasters. The Comprehensive Health Programme (PIS) is being developed today in 44 countries with 4.3 thousand Cuban collaborators, of these 2.9 thousand are doctors and they involve a population of more than 68 million inhabitants.

Additionally and motivated by natural disasters, we have formed Emergent Brigades as a channel for rapid assistance and aid. These collaborations are carried out for short periods of time and until the present day 57 such brigades have provided services, 7.9 thousand specialists, technicians and doctors in 18 countries.

Also, we have the Henry Reeves International Medical Brigade, specialized in disaster situations and serious epidemics. Since it was formed in September 2005, this Brigade has gone on missions to 7 countries with the presence of 4,200 collaborators, of which 2,840 are doctors.

Cuba also donates its health services through Supply Method 2, in other words, giving attention to foreign patients in Cuban health institutions. Outstanding among these is the programme giving care to the children affected by the Chernobyl catastrophe and the so-called Operation Miracle that looks after patients with eye problems, mostly cataracts.

In the first of these cases a sanatory diagnostic, physical and mental rehab plan was provided, along with follow-ups for years with comprehensive actions and preventive measures, to 3,228 cases, 84% of whom were children.

In Operation Miracle at the beginning of October in 2009, some 1,804,200 thousand patients from 35 countries have been operated on; recently this programme have been put into practice in ophthalmologic centres donated by Cuba to 16 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa.

Cuban international collaboration in the health sector has also been considerable through the programme of training human resources. The Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) today has an enrolment of 7,462 students coming from 24 countries. We have also participated in founding 3 medical faculties in Africa.

In the educational area, a significant element is the Cuban literacy programme using several different teaching methods, today in use in 25 countries in Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa and Oceania, with a total of 892 Cuban advisors that have managed to teach reading and writing to 4,284,000 people.

ALBA is a mechanism of integration that has launched cooperative South-South actions with a profound humane spirit. Such is the case of the psychosocial, pedagogical and Genetic Clinical study of disabled persons that is being carried out in Venezuela, Bolivia, Nicaragua and Ecuador, that has permitted us to help suffering people in these countries and to design policies of health, education and culture, thus contributing to Millennium Goal 1. Other missions directed to promote cultural development are following these lines.

A very important aspect of this Millennium Goal is to achieve access to essential affordable medicines. Cuba has the advantage that national manufacture of medicines includes more than 1,000 products. In particular, biotechnological sub-products such as PPG, melagenin, epidermic growth factor, Interferons, monoclonal antibodies and transfer factor are new, as well as vaccines for hepatitis B, anti-meningococcus and against leptospirosis; some of these latter ones are contributions to world science. Thanks to said advantage we attain full coverage with the antiretrovirals mentioned earlier for HIV/AIDS patients.

The aim of improving the availability of medicines in the country, eliminating those that are lacking and educating in order to achieve rational consumption of these is maintained as a prioritized programme. Access to essential available medicines in Cuba is prioritized for chronically ill patients, the hospitalized, pregnant women and

seniors; in these cases, they are distributed free of charge or with subsidies. Despite the advances achieved, the stability of medicines is a subject that has yet to be completely resolved.

Regarding the goal of achieving access to the benefits of new technologies, in particular those dealing with information and communications (ICTs), the effects of the economic, technological and commercial blockade imposed by United States are particularly remarkably, Cuba can not purchase equipment produced by American companies or having parts or components made in this country. In the same way, it is not possible to buy any kind of software. As it is well known the United States are a potency in these technologies and control their market internationally.

For the same reason, Cuba cannot use the undersea optical fibre connection facilities to access the Internet, despite being virtually surrounded by these cables; the only option to date has been via satellite, which is more expensive and poorer quality

By 2008, the density of the telephone network had reached 12.6 lines per 100 inhabitants, digitization was 95.6%, and the ratio of PCs amounted to 5.6 per 100 inhabitants. The corresponding ratio of Internet users was 13 per 100 inhabitants, still well below the levels in the industrialized world.

Cuba has developed a programme for social use of ICTs, with the aim of extending their benefits to a larger number of people. This forms part of a national strategic programme for computing, which envisages widespread, controlled and safe use of ICTs as a means to greater efficiency and effectiveness in the various spheres of economic life and in society; the ultimate goal is that of improving the quality of life of the Cuban people.

As part of this programme, a large-scale project was implemented in 2001, involving the installation of computers in every school in Cuba's education system, including those in the remotest country areas.

The use and teaching of computing and the intensive employment of visual aids are universal to the teaching of children, adolescents and young adults, in town and country alike.

The computing programme was preceded by an audiovisual programme that entailed installing televisions as a teaching aid in every school in the system. Cuba has two television channels exclusively dedicated to education, whose daytime output consists of programmes supporting the curricula of the various grades. The other national channels also play a significant role by transmitting classes during the day and supporting the 'University for All' programme with a wide range of high-quality courses designed for large-scale distance learning, within an eclectic framework of topics that cover the humanities as well as cultural, scientific and technical disciples.

The curricula at all levels are supported by Cuban educational computing applications.

A factor in developing capacities and skills in the use of ICTs among the population is the high level of education in Cuba; coupled with the relevant programmes, this has facilitated the training of millions of people, despite the limitations in terms of equipment. A census by the National Statistical Office in 2006 revealed that 42% of Cubans were able to use a computer unaided.

An important element of our training experience is represented by the Joven Club computing and electronics centres, of which there are 607 scattered throughout Cuba (at least two in every borough). These have provided free access to ICTs to Cubans of all ages, mainly young people and children. In their almost 23 years of existence, over two million people have successfully completed the courses at these centres. The clubs' achievements in reaching socially-disadvantaged groups, notably the disabled and the elderly, are significant.

As part of specialized training, skills have been developed in 26 computing polytechnics, whose annual graduations in ICT-related technical disciplines total over 6,000. Courses related to these technologies are also taught in 17 Cuban universities and in the 14 Higher Teaching Institutes.

Although the results in terms of access and use of ICTs have been modest, reflecting the nation's economic environment, progress is being made in the development of capacities and skills among the Cuban population in the use of these technologies.

GOAL 8. State of compliance and 2015 forecast

Conclusion

Cuba is an exponent of international solidarity in pursuit of fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals. Such is the case that one part of the limited financial resources available in the country is directed towards South-South cooperation.

Likewise, Cuba has indicated to United Nations organizations on repeated occasions its readiness to contribute its most abundant resource, human capital, to form a part of teams of collaborators and international programmes that, financed by the developed countries, are organized and commit themselves to promote fulfilment of the Millennium Development Goals in the poorest countries on the planet.

Scientific-technical developments in cutting-edge areas such as biotechnology have made possible a unique advance in terms of access to medicines; thus we are fulfilling the corresponding millennium goal. The equity of distribution that characterizes the country explains the favourable situation for access to medicines throughout the Island.

Although the progress of the programme for extending Informatics to all spheres in society is characterized by its relative speed, it is modest since it requires greater funding in order to fulfil the extension goals as presented. Density of computers in the population increased 1.3 times between 2003 and 2008 and in the same period the number of Internet users grew 1.5 times but coming out of low levels.
All the support that the United Nations agencies could channel to those purposes could launch an experience so out of the ordinary such as the one being attempted in Cuba; massively introducing the use of information technologies starting from a collective and public social development project.

By 2015, fulfilment of the goal to support global partnerships for development is assessed as POTENTIALLY PROBABLE.

IV. Diagnostics of a look

GOAL 1: **Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger**

Reduce extreme poverty.	VERY LOW Level
Full employment and decent work.	VERY HIGH Level
Reduce hunger.	VERY LOW Level

GOAL 2: **Achieve universal primary education**

Complete Primary Education.	VERY HIGH Level of termination

GOAL 3: **Promote gender equality and the empower women**

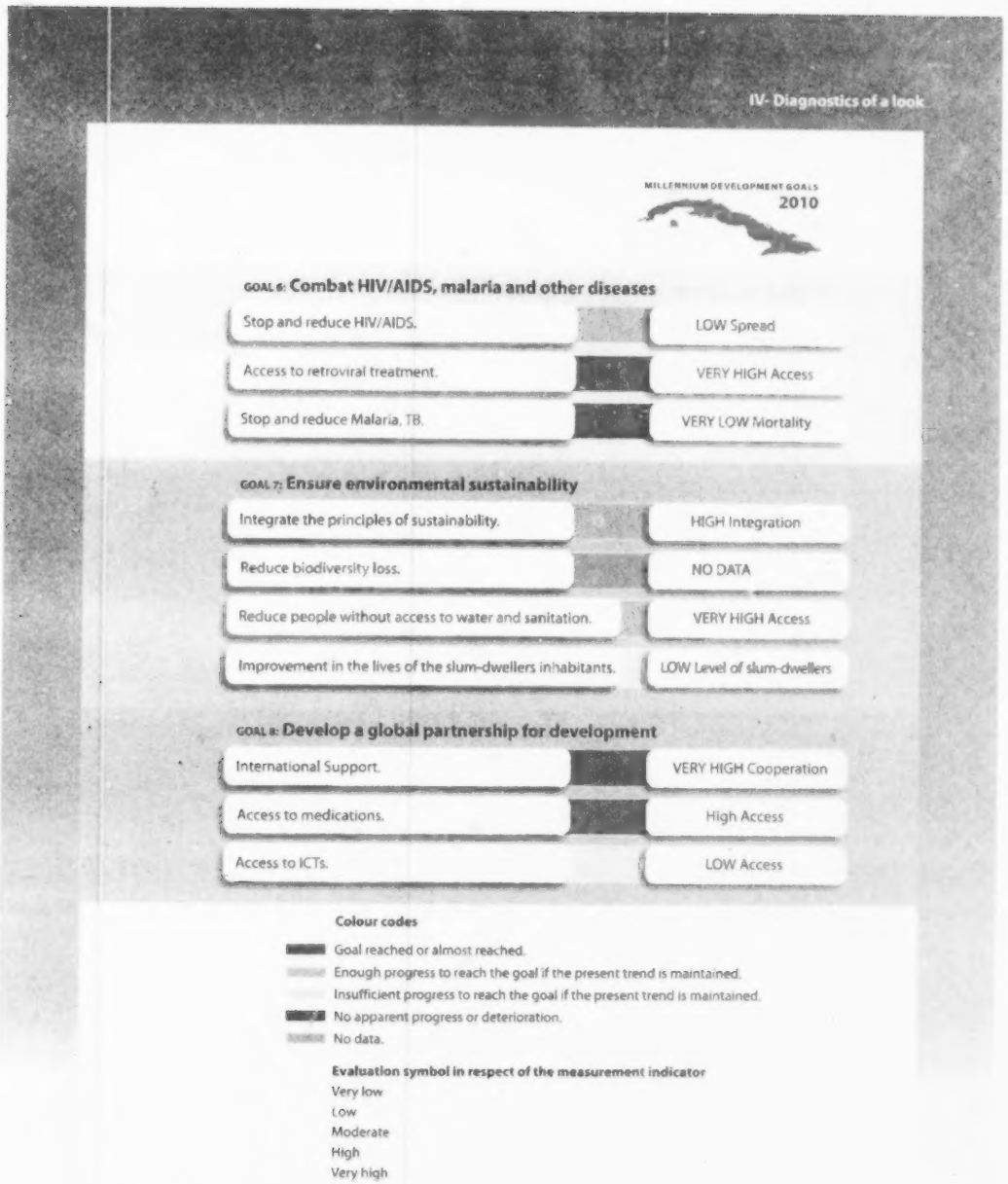
Equality in enrolment .	Parity
Paid Employment.	HIGH Percentage
Representation Equality.	HIGH Representation

GOAL 4: **Reduce under-five mortality rate**

Reduce minors mortality.	VERY LOW Mortality
Vaccination.	VERY HIGH Coverage

GOAL 5: **Improve maternal health**

Reduce mother mortality.	VERY LOW Mortality
Access to reproductive health.	HIGH Access


IV- Diagnostics of a look
MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS
2010
GOAL 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases
Stop and reduce HIV/AIDS.
LOW Spread
Access to retroviral treatment.
VERY HIGH Access
Stop and reduce Malaria, TB.
VERY LOW Mortality
GOAL 7: Ensure environmental sustainability
Integrate the principles of sustainability.
HIGH Integration
Reduce biodiversity loss.
NO DATA
Reduce people without access to water and sanitation.
VERY HIGH Access
Improvement in the lives of the slum-dwellers inhabitants.
LOW Level of slum-dwellers
GOAL 8: Develop a global partnership for development
International Support.
VERY HIGH Cooperation
Access to medications.
High Access
Access to ICTs.
LOW Access
Colour codes
Goal reached or almost reached.
Enough progress to reach the goal if the present trend is maintained.
Insufficient progress to reach the goal if the present trend is maintained.
No apparent progress or deterioration.
No data.
Evaluation symbol in respect of the measurement indicator
Very low
Low
Moderate
High
Very high

FULFILMENT OF MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS - **CUBA 2010** 141

V - Official statistic indicators

TARGET/INDICATOR	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
TARGET 1B - Achieve Decent Employment for Women, Men, and Young People									
1.4 - Rate of GDP growth per employee (%)	...	...	7.3	5.7	5.6	9.7	22.8	8.5	5.3
1.5 - Employment-Population Relation	70.1	62.9	65.9	69.2	69.7	70.7	70.7	72.4	73.6
1.7 - Proportion of the employed population that is self-employed or employed in a family-run business (%)	...	...	3.5	3.3	3.6	3.6	3.2	2.8	2.8
TARGET 1C - Halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger between 1990 and 2015.									
1.8 - - Proportion of underweight children under 5 years old (%)	...	6.1	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	4.0	4.0	4.0

TARGET/INDICATOR	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
TARGET 2A - By 2015, all children can complete a full course of primary schooling, girls and boys									
2.1 - Net rate of enrolment in primary education (%)	98.6	97.5	97.8	99.1	98.9	99.4	99.5	99.4	99.7
Girls	97.5	97.8	97.6	98.4	98.5	99.4	99.4	99.6	99.7
Boys	99.6	97.9	98.1	99.8	99.3	99.4	99.5	99.3	99.7
2.2 - Proportion of students starting first grade and completing the final year of primary school (%)	97.9	96.0	98.2	99.3	99.7	99.4	99.9	99.8	99.3
Girls	97.6	97.5	98.3	99.5	99.6	99.3	100.0	100.0	99.8
Boys	98.1	94.6	98.1	99.0	99.8	99.4	99.7	99.6	98.7
2.3 - Rate of literacy for people between 15 and 24 years of age (%)	...	...	...	99.96	99.96	99.96	99.96	99.96	99.96
Women	...	...	...	99.95	99.95	99.95	99.95	99.95	99.95
Men	...	...	...	99.96	99.96	99.96	99.96	99.96	99.96

TARGET/INDICATOR	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
META3A - Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education, preferably by 2005, and at all teaching levels by 2015.									
3.1 - Relationship between boys and girls in primary, secondary and tertiary education (%)									
Primary	92.5	94.9	94.6	93.9	94.2	94.8	94.7	95.1	95.2
Secundary	109.8	100.7	100.3	99.4	96.3	95.6	93.2	91.7	90.7
Terciary	134.2	147.8	153.2	175.1	169.9	180.3	183.2	170.0	172.1
3.2 - Proportion of women among paid workers in the non-agriculture sector (%)	39.6	41.0	41.3	42.4	42.7	43.1	42.7	43.8	42.6
3.3 - Proportion of seats occupied by women in national parliaments (%)	34.3	22.8	27.6	36.0	36.0	36.0	36.0	43.3	43.3
nacionales (%)	34,3	22,8	27,6	36	36	36	36	43,3	43,3

V - Official statistic indicators

TARGET/INDICATOR	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
4.1 - Under-five child mortality rate									
rate (per one thousand live births)	13.2	12.5	9.1	8.0	7.7	8.0	7.1	6.7	6.2
Girls	11.4	11.8	7.6	7.6	6.5	7.3	6.6	6.2	5.7
Boys	14.9	13.6	10.5	8.4	8.9	8.7	7.5	7.2	6.6
4.2 - Infant Mortality Rate									
(per one thousand live births)	10.7	9.4	7.2	6.3	5.8	6.2	5.3	5.3	4.7
Girls	9.1	8.4	5.9	5.9	4.8	5.7	4.9	4.8	4.3
Boys	12.2	10.3	8.4	6.6	6.7	6.6	5.7	5.7	5.1
4.3 - Proportion of one-year-olds									
vaccinated for measles (%)	94.0	99.0	94.0	100.0	100.0	98.1	100.0	100.0	100.0

TARGET/INDICATOR	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
TARGET 5A - Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio									
5.1 - Maternal mortality ratio[2]									
(per 100,000 live births)	41.8	47.6	40.4	39.5	38.5	51.4	49.4	31.1	46.5
5.2 - Proportion of deliveries with									
the assistance of expert health									
personnel (%)	99.8	99.8	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9	99.9

TARGET/INDICATOR	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
TARGET 6A: Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS									
6.1 - HIV prevalence in the									
15 to 24 year-old group (%)	...	...	...	...	...	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05
6.2 - Use of condoms in the last									
high-risk sexual contact (%)	...	7.2[a]	...	...	...	35.6[a]	39.6[b]	...	...
Women	...	3.4[a]	...	...	...	31.9[a]	33.5[b]	...	...
Men	...	7.9[a]	...	...	...	36.4[a]	41.3[b]	...	...
6.3 - Proportion of the 15 to 24 year-old									
population having									
sufficient and correct knowledge									
about HIV/AIDS (%)	...	26.0[a]	...	...	...	58.0[a]	57.8[b]	...	...
Women	...	21.6[a]	...	...	...	59.1[a]	60.8[b]	...	...
Men	...	30.4[a]	...	...	...	56.8[a]	54.9[b]	...	...
6.4 - Relationship between school attendance									
by orphans and non-orphans in									
the 10 to 14 year-old age group	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0

V - Official statistic indicators

TARGET/INDICATOR	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
TARGET 7A: Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and to reverse loss of environmental resources									
TARGET 7B - Reduce biodiversity loss, achieving by 2010 a significant reduction in the rate of loss									
7.1- Proportion of land area covered by forests (%)	18.7	21.9	22.2	23.8	24.2	24.5	24.9	25.3	25.7
7.2 - Carbon Dioxide emissions [b]									
Per capita (ton./inhab.)	3.2	2.0	2.4	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2	2.2
Per each PIB weight	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001	0.001
7.3 - Consumption of substances that deplete the ozone layer (PAO ton)	975.70	621.18	573.97	508.56	471.74	240.92	270.99	104.43	88.61
7.5 - Proportion of the total water resources used (%)	18.3	16.0	16.0	17.1	14.8	10.4	12.7	13.0	16.1
7.6 - Proportion of protected land and marine areas (%)	...	...	-	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	3.0	5.6
7.7 - Proportion of species in danger of extinction (%)									
Vascular Flora	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.49
Fauna	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.47
	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.52

TARGET/INDICATOR	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
TARGET 7C - Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.									
7.8 - Proportion of the population with sustainable access to improved water supply sources. (%)	78.2	87.3	90.3	91.2	91.6	91.6	92.1	92.4	92.4
Zones: Urban	81.9	95.7	96.3	96.5	96.3	96.3	96.8	96.9	96.9
Rural	68.8	63.9	72.2	75.5	77.3	77.2	77.7	78.3	78.3
7.9 - Proportion of the population with access to improved sanitation services (%)	88.7	87.7	93.7	94.2	95.0	95.0	95.9	96.1	95.8
Zones: Urban	96.1	92.2	97.0	97.4	97.9	97.9	97.9	98.2	97.7
Rural	68,2	74,4	83,2	84,2	86,0	86,0	89,5	89,8	90,0
Rural	68,2	74,4	83,2	84,2	86	86	89,5	89,8	90

TARGET/INDICATOR	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
TARGET 7D: By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum-dwellers									
7.10 - Proportion of the urban population that live in slum-dwellers* (%)	...	...	...	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
Zonas: Urban	...	...	...	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Rural	...	...	...	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8
Women	...	...	...	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5
Urban	...	...	...	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Rural	...	...	...	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7
Men	...	...	...	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7
Urban	...	...	...	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Rural	...	...	...	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0

TARGET/INDICATOR	1990	1995	2000	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
META 8E - 8E In co-operation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable, essential drugs in developing countries									
8.13 - Proportion of the population with sustainable access to affordable, essential drugs (%)	...	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
META 8F - In co-operation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies, especially information and communications									
8.14 - Fixed telephone lines per 100 inhabitants	5.6	3.2	4.4	6.4	6.8	7.6	7.7	8.2	8.5
8.15 - Cell phone users per 100 inhabitants	...	...	...	0.3	0.7	1.2	2.2	3.0	4.1
8.16 - Internet users per 100 inhabitants	...	...	...	5	8	10	11	12	13

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In addition to the goals and targets according to the official list effective as from 15 January 2008, promulgated by the United Nations, Cuba provides data for 78 other targets as suggested further yardsticks for assessing the country performance in relation to the 16 goals adopted. These can be accessed via the website of Cuba's National Statistical Office: http://www.one.cu, in the publication ***CUBA en cifras. Objetivos de Desarrollo del Milenio*** (***Cuba in figures. Millenium Development Goals***), 2009 edition.